

# Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 23 Number 8 – August, 2021



## August Events



**Bloomington-Normal Duplicate games at the First Christian Church located at Jefferson and Lee streets near downtown Bloomington starting at 11:00AM on Mondays:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Monday – Mentor-mentee pairs all other games – open pairs**  
**Contact Lori Moore at 309-838-8085 for more information.**

**Mike's Bridge Club schedule – ALL games at Centennial Christian Church, 1219 E. Grove St, Bloomington, unless otherwise noted:**

**Mondays, 6:15pm – 99ers only pairs – Mike's Bridge Room – lower level of 1714 Tompkins Dr, Normal**  
**Wednesdays, 12:30pm – open pairs**  
**Wednesdays, 12:30pm – 499ers only pairs**  
**Saturdays, 12:30pm – open pairs – NO GAME on the 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**Contact Mike Tomlianovich at 309-825-5823 for more information.**

**Online(BBO) bridge available at:**

**Tuesdays, 6:50pm – 499ers only pairs**  
**Wednesdays, 6:50pm – open pairs**  
**Thursdays, 6:30pm – 299ers only pairs**  
**Thursdays, 6:50pm – open pairs**  
**Saturdays, 11:50am – 299ers only pairs**  
**Saturdays, 12:10pm – open pairs**  
**Sundays, 6:50pm – mentee-mentor 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> – open 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> pairs**

**for more information contact one of:**

**Lori Moore at 309-838-8085**

**Mike Tomlianovich at 309-825-5823**

**Eunice Patton at 309-660-2380**

**All game results are posted online: <http://live.acbl.org/>**

**All games sanctioned by the American Contract Bridge League.**



# The Bloomington-Normal "Top 25" Masterpoint holders

As of 7/6/2021 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only  
paid up ACBL members only



- 1 4,329.02 Steve Babin
- 2 3,559.52 JoAnn Schroeder
- 3 3,452.50 Zack Freehill
- 4 3,309.12 Eunice Patton
- 5 2,914.31 Cindy Moore
- 6 2,440.67 Mike Tomlianovich
- 7 2,347.10 Ann Schuyler
- 8 2,233.28 Lori Moore
- 9 1,806.59 Ron Emmett
- 10 1,550.15 Jeff Furler
- 11 1,515.53 Joyce Clay
- 12 1,272.27 Jeanne Strand
- 13 1,161.80 Ivey Weaver
- 14 1,139.92 Steve Wulfers
- 15 831.65 Dave Freehill
- 16 810.14 Stevie Joslin
- 17 797.11 Barbara Neuges
- 18 731.89 Ray Dostal
- 19 726.80 Sallie Boge
- 20 609.01 Fred Spitzzeri
- 21 582.98 Mary Cralley
- 22 495.79 John Cralley
- 23 477.78 Larry Ziegler
- 24 395.51 Gene Byers
- 25 353.70 Chris Zogg

## Other players:

- 13,061.90 Chris Benson-LeRoy
- 5,753.53 Larry Matheny-Colorado
- 5,654.60 Ron Sholes-Springfield
- 5,497.98 John Seng-Champaign
- 4,372.17 Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
- 3,631.85 Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 3,456.10 Mary Allen-Peoria
- 3,430.27 Terry Goodykoontz
- 2,689.15 Pat Carrington-Champaign
- 2,671.71 Georgia Heth-Morton
- 2,654.61 Margaret Hansell-Champaign
- 2,538.40 Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
- 2,427.17 John Maloney-Champaign
- 2,221.89 Chuck Young-Peoria
- 1,998.91 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
- 1,680.09 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
- 1,357.39 Dan Bunde-Urbana
- 1,270.99 Wes Seitz-Champaign
- 1,071.80 Bill Strauss-Urbana
- 835.38 Darryl Bremner-Canton
- 794.15 Carole Miller-Champaign
- 759.95 Bill Thompson-Ft Myers,FL
- 704.79 Melda Richardson-California
- 611.42 Lane O'Connor-Naperville
- 572.64 Linda Odette-Palisade,CO
- 545.12 Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
- 507.75 John Ford-Harvard,MA
- 458.94 Ron Sinn-Peoria
- 453.14 Connie Tucker-Champaign





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#1 - Finding the right bid with every hand isn't always possible and sometimes you put your partner in a difficult contract. Take a look at this hand.

**Scoring: Matchpoints**

Hand #34	♠763				
Dlr E	♥53				
Vul N-S	♦AK872				
	♣K104	West	North	East	South
♠Q95	♠K82			Pass	1♣
♥AKQ74	♥J10962	1♥	DBL*	4♥	4♣
♦653	♦QJ10	All Pass			
♣J9	♣62				
	♠AJ104				
	♥8				
	♦94				
	♣AQ8753				

**\*Negative**

**BIDDING:** South held only eleven high card points (hcp) but his good distribution allowed him to open the bidding. West made a simple overcall and North was uncertain how to continue. Perhaps he should have bid 2♦ showing a good suit and at least ten hcp, however, in an effort to keep the bidding low, he chose to make a negative double. North hoped his partner could bid no-trump or perhaps rebid a good club suit. But, after East's preemptive leap to 4♥, South bid a confident 4♣ expecting to find four spades in dummy.

**PLAY:** West led a top heart and continued the suit. South realized he could not afford to trump in his hand so he discarded a club. When West continued hearts, declarer was able to trump this one in dummy. South now led a spade to his ten and West's queen. West was relentless and led a fourth heart and South had no choice but to trump in his hand and hope the remaining spades behaved. Accordingly, he led a diamond to the ace and led dummy's last spade. He put in the jack and when both opponents followed, he pulled the remaining trumps with the ace. It turns out all he needed was a 3-3 spade break along with split spade honors.

Note this was a pairs event, so South's score of +620 beat those in a more sedate 5♣ contract who scored +600.

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The Roman Keycard convention is a powerful tool. The keycards are the four aces plus the king in the agreed trump suit. The convention also lets you find out about the trump queen. Here it is in action.

### Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #35	♠832				
Dlr E	♥AK9875				
Vul N-S	♦AK10				
	♣A				
		West	North	East	South
♠				Pass	2♣
♥J1064	♠K654			Pass	5♣*
♦Q53	♥2	Pass	4NT	Pass	
♣Q87654	♦9762	Pass	5♦	Pass	6♣
	♣K1032	All Pass			
	♠AQJ1097				
	♥Q3				
	♦J84				
	♣J9				

\*1 or 4 keycards

**BIDDING:** My partner in the South seat opened a weak two bid and my thoughts went immediately to slam. However, we sometimes open a weak two with a five card suit, so I was concerned about trump quality. The answer could be found with Keycard Blackwood. South's 5♣ response showed one or four keycards so I knew we were missing one important card. My 5♦ bid asked about the spade queen. His leap to 6♣ told me he held the lady but no outside king. Without the queen, he would have bid 5♣.

**PLAY:** West lead a club and my partner quickly wrapped up thirteen tricks. He led the spade eight from dummy and continued with a small one to his hand. He then went back to dummy with a diamond to repeat the finesse. He discarded his losers on dummy's heart suit after ruffing the fourth round.

To realize the value of the convention, what would you have bid if South had denied the spade queen? What if his suit was: AJ9754 or K109854? Do you still want to be in slam?

### #3

Matchpoint (pairs) is a difficult game. An important thing to remember is that the scoring system rewards playing in a major suit or notrump contract far more than it does the poor minor suits. Here is a good example.

#### Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #36	♠85 ♥952 ♦AKJ764 ♣J6		West	North	East	South
♠1094		♠732			Pass	1♣
♥QJ106		♥AK87	Pass	1NT*	Pass	2♣
♦1082		♦9	Pass	2♦	Pass	3♦
♣Q95		♣K10743	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♣
	♠AKQJ6 ♥43 ♦Q53 ♣A82		All Pass			

\*forcing

**BIDDING:** North-South play a 2/1 game forcing system with a 1NT forcing response to a major suit opening. South's 2♣ rebid showed at least three clubs and a range of 12-16 high card points. North's 2♦ bid showed a good suit with no interest in game opposite a minimum opener. South's raise to 3♦ indicated extra strength with diamond support. It seemed likely that South had a doubleton heart so North was reluctant to play notrump but he was strong enough to try for a diamond game. South's 4♣ bid showed a strong five card suit and suggested it as the final contract. Holding a doubleton spade, North was happy to pass.

**PLAY:** West led a heart and declarer soon made eleven tricks. Those in 4♣ scored +650 while those in 5♦ had to be content with +600. And those brave souls who wandered into 3NT also received +600 because the opponents' hearts divided 4-4. It's a rough game.

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Duplicating the hands eliminates much of the luck factor but not entirely. Sometimes a combination of luck and skill is needed to obtain the best score. Take a look at this hand.

### Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #37	♠ K95					
Dlr N	♥ KQJ2					
Vul N-	♦ Q1094					
S	♣ K6					
♠ J6		♠ Q873	West	North	East	South
♥ 865		♥ 1097		1♦	Pass	3NT
♦ 8532		♦ K7	All Pass			
♣ 10754		♣ AJ92				
	♠ A1042					
	♥ A43					
	♦ AJ6					
	♣ Q83					

**BIDDING:** South risked missing a spade contract by his leap to 3NT, but his hand screamed no-trump and he wanted to give away as little information as possible.

**PLAY:** West had no attractive opening lead and he finally decided upon the jack of spades, hoping to find a long suit in his partner's hand. Assuming the spade queen was in the East hand, declarer counted eleven tricks but this was matchpoints scoring so overtricks were vital. He won with the king in dummy and led the queen of diamonds, East covering with the king. South was now up to twelve tricks (3 spades, 4 hearts, 4 diamonds, and 1 club) and looked for another one. He saw if East held the ace of clubs along with length in spades, he could be squeezed. At trick three he played the jack and another diamond to get to dummy. Next he led a low club toward his queen and East was finished when he failed to take his ace. When declarer ran the remaining hearts and diamonds, East had to discard from ♠Q87 and ♣A while declarer held ♠A104 in his hand and the ♣Q in dummy.

Those declarers who did not receive the spade lead made eleven tricks, those who did made twelve tricks, and those who did and also saw the squeeze brought in all thirteen tricks. Skill or luck?



## **Bloomington-Normal 70% club Year 2021 only**

<b>2021/7/28</b>	<b>71.21%</b>	<b>Ray Dostal &amp; Steve Wulfers</b>
<b>2021/7/12</b>	<b>75.83%</b>	<b>Fred Spitzzerie &amp; Zach Freehill</b>
<b>2021/7/11</b>	<b>72.28%</b>	<b>Eunice Patton &amp; Larry Ziegler</b>
<b>2021/7/7</b>	<b>70.83%</b>	<b>David Quigg &amp; Rich Hagenauer</b>
<b>2021/7/7</b>	<b>70.83%</b>	<b>Hank Hoffman &amp; Zach Freehill</b>
<b>2021/6/7</b>	<b>72.00%</b>	<b>Rick Kern &amp; Michelle Tomlin(Mon eve pairs)</b>
<b>2021/5/31</b>	<b>73.26%</b>	<b>Larry Ziegler &amp; John Ford</b>
<b>2021/5/5</b>	<b>70.43%</b>	<b>Chris Benson &amp; David Quigg</b>
<b>2021/4/15</b>	<b>71.91%</b>	<b>Lori Moore &amp; Mary Allen</b>
<b>2021/3/20</b>	<b>71.11%</b>	<b>Pat Lebeck &amp; Lynn Steffen(299ers)</b>
<b>2021/2/11</b>	<b>70.74%</b>	<b>Lori Moore &amp; Mary Allen</b>
<b>2021/2/19</b>	<b>70.37%</b>	<b>Mary Pat Killian &amp; Rick Dalton</b>
<b>2021/2/11</b>	<b>71.85%</b>	<b>Lori Moore &amp; Mary Allen</b>
<b>2021/1/16</b>	<b>70.28%</b>	<b>Larry Ziegler &amp; John Ford</b>
<b>2021/1/15</b>	<b>71.61%</b>	<b>Mary Cralley &amp; Charles Wiese</b>



## BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



### #037 – THE TRUMP COUP

This week's deal contains a little bit of magic whereby a "certain" trump loser evaporates into thin air thanks to some well-timed Declarer play.

	♠ T9 ♥ AQJ ♦ A543 ♣ AQ52	
♠ 2 ♥ T83 ♦ JT96 ♣ JT984	North  West East  Declarer	♠ K765 ♥ 9654 ♦ Q72 ♣ K7
	♠ AQJ843 ♥ K72 ♦ K8 ♣ 63	

Against your 6♣ contract West leads the ♣J. You finesse the Queen but that loses to the King and East returns a Club to Dummy's Ace. It was a fine slam but it got worse when that Club finesse lost. Now you must pick up the trump suit for no losers. You run the ♠T and it holds. You say a silent "Yippee!" but that quickly changes to "Rats!" when you repeat the finesse and West shows out. How will you overcome this setback?

East still has ♠K7 but there are no Spades left in Dummy with which to repeat the finesse. That might seem like a certain trump loser but you have a resource, it's known as a Trump Coup. For this to work you must shorten your trumps down

to two (the same length as East) and also make sure that you win the 11<sup>th</sup> trick in Dummy. If you can do that, then when you lead from Dummy at Trick 12, East will be forced to ruff in front of you, thereby losing his "sure" trump trick.

So, after the second trump finesse wins, the play goes: ♦K; ♦A; Diamond ruff; over to Dummy's ♥Q; Club ruff; back to Dummy's ♥J. The ♥A is now cashed and at Trick 12 Dummy leads a Club (or Diamond) and East is forced to ruff in front of you. Great stuff! Be sure to realize that you needed *both* those ruffs in your hand, if you had not shortened your trumps to the right length then there would have been no Trump Coup.





#038 – THE ANTI-BATH COUP

	♠ KJT ♥ 865 ♦ 72 ♣ AQT96	
♠ 962 ♥ KQT94 ♦ JT8 ♣ 42	North West East Declarer	♠ 8743 ♥ 73 ♦ KQ953 ♣ K3
	♠ AQ5 ♥ AJ2 ♦ A64 ♣ J875	

The Bath Coup is well known by now:

865  
KQT94                      73  
AJ2

West leads the King and Declarer craftily ducks. Now if West continues he gives Declarer a second trick in the suit. The rule for East here, when holding Jxx, is to *encourage* with his higher spot card, hopefully that agreement will save West from the ignominy of the Bath Coup.

However, in the diagram above, Declarer pulled off what has been termed as the “Anti-Bath Coup”. Against 3NT, West led the ♥K and Declarer could have ducked this trick in order to

lure West into a Bath Coup. But Declarer could see that a Diamond shift might be fatal, so in order to muddy the waters he played the ♥J on the first trick! Our (gullible) West assumed that Declarer had started with ♥AJ doubleton and continued Hearts, won by Declarer’s Ace. The Club finesse was lost, but East was out of Hearts and Declarer had 9 tricks. Of course, a Diamond shift at Trick 2 beats the contract, but Declarer’s clever false card diverted West from the winning play.

Yes, West erred grievously! After that first Heart trick (King, Five, Three, Jack), he should have smelled a rat. Where was the Two? East would not play the Three from 732, instead he would play his lowest card saying “I don’t have the Jack!” So, an alert West (and one who trusted his Partner to signal correctly) could have figured out that Declarer had false-carded. But, in the heat of battle, such clues can be missed!



#039 – THE MERRIMAC COUP

Historians of the Spanish-American War will have no difficulty figuring out how this week’s coup got its exotic name. For the rest of us there is Google.

	♠ A6 ♥ 754 ♦ 763 ♣ KQT96	
♠ 432 ♥ QT82 ♦ 954 ♣ 872	North  West East  Declarer	♠ KJT9 ♥ AJ3 ♦ JT8 ♣ A54
	♠ Q875 ♥ K96 ♦ AKQ2 ♣ J3	

*Both Vulnerable*

**South West North East**  
 1NT Pass 3NT All Pass

Against 3NT, West leads his 4<sup>th</sup> best Heart, and routine defense by East is to win the Ace and return the Jack. Declarer’s King wins that and Clubs are played. East can take his ♠A when he likes, West gets a couple of Hearts, but that is all there is for the defense. 9 tricks for Declarer.

Let’s replay the hand, this time with a wide-awake East at the table. He can see those ominous Clubs in Dummy and must knock out the ♠A before Declarer can set up the Clubs. That’s right, a Spade shift is required at Trick 2. But shifting

to the ♠J does not get the job done. Declarer will hop up with her Queen, saving Dummy’s ♠A entry for later. What is needed is the spectacular shift to the ♠K, that does knock out Dummy’s entry (if the ♠K is ducked then East simply continues with another Spade). Nicely done! East’s sacrifice of the ♠K (the Merrimac Coup) shuts out the Clubs and is the only way to set the contract.

Of course, after the ♠A has been dislodged, East must keep up the good work by ducking one round of Clubs, in order to complete the job of shutting out the Club suit. Why not duck a second round in case Declarer started with three Clubs? West will help out by giving a count signal, playing the ♣2 on the first round. This “low-high” tells East that West started with an *odd* number of Clubs and therefore that Declarer does *not* have three. Ducking the second Club would be fatal as it happens, allowing Declarer to scamper home with two Spades, a Heart, four Diamonds and two Clubs.



## #040 – THE SCISSORS COUP

This week's deal features the Scissors Coup, so-called because it cuts communications between the two defenders.

	♠ J95 ♥ AKJ7 ♦ 43 ♣ AT87	
♠ A4 ♥ T ♦ AJT65 ♣ KQJ52	North  West East  Declarer	♠ 2 ♥ 8643 ♦ KQ987 ♣ 643
	♠KQT8763 ♥ Q952 ♦ 2 ♣ 9	

Both Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♦	Dbl	4♦	4♠
5♦	Pass	Pass	5♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

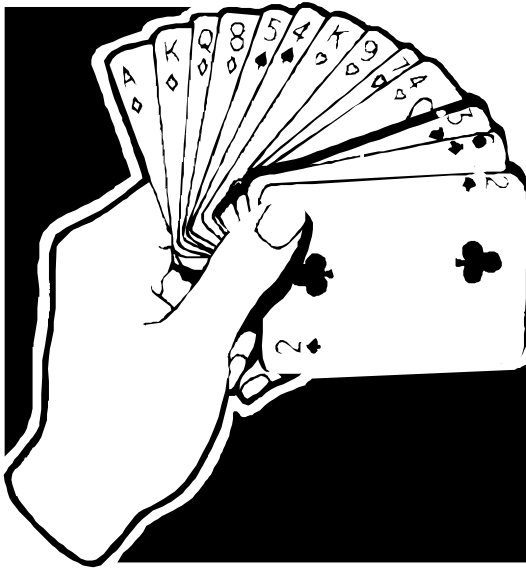
East's 4♦ was preemptive, showing long Diamonds and not much else.

As West, what's your opening lead? It would be reasonable to lead ♣K, attempting to set up a Club trick while you still have the ♠A entry. That doesn't work on the actual deal because of Declarer's Club singleton. A more promising plan might be to lead the singleton Heart, later winning the ♠A, then *underleading* the ♦A to East's hoped-for ♦K, and getting a Heart ruff for down one. As you can see, that plan is the winner. Well, not quite, because there is a clever counter-measure. How can Declarer deprive West of his ruff?

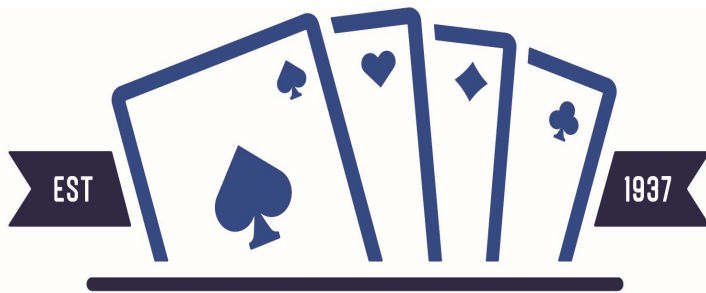
Enter the Scissors Coup. Declarer wins the Heart lead in Dummy, and before touching trumps she cashes ♣A and leads another Club, *pitching a Diamond* when East plays low. By this maneuver Declarer trades a Diamond loser for a Club loser, in the process thwarting West in his plan to reach East with the ♦K. Now, with the defensive communications snipped, Declarer loses only the ♠A and a Club (but there is no Diamond loser and no Heart ruff).

Post Script: As West you no doubt found that well-thought-out Heart opening lead. Then as Declarer you made a clever play to bring home the 5♠ contract. Next, imagine that you hold the East cards, but with the ♣6 replaced by the ♣J. Now, after Dummy's ♣A has been cashed, when a second Club is played, we are quite confident that you would alertly hop up with that ♣J, foiling the Scissors Coup. Nice play!





**Please see schedules on page 1**



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