

Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 23 Number 10 – October, 2021



October 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:

**1st Monday – Mentor-mentee pairs all other games – open pairs - SPECIAL GAMES ANNOUNCED
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(STaC – 27th)

Wednesdays, 12:30pm – 299ers only pairs(STaC – 27th)

Saturdays, 12:30pm – open pairs(STaC – 29th)

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 2nd & 4th – open 1st-3rd-5th 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 9/6/2021 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



1	4,364.74	Steve Babin
2	3,626.33	JoAnn Schroeder
3	3,473.20	Zack Freehill
4	3,322.82	Eunice Patton
5	2,970.54	Cindy Moore
6	2,453.57	Mike Tomlianovich
7	2,353.13	Ann Schuyler
8	2,248.75	Lori Moore
9	1,814.20	Ron Emmett
10	1,553.77	Jeff Furler
11	1,541.10	Joyce Clay
12	1,272.27	Jeanne Strand
13	1,161.80	Ivey Weaver
14	1,161.21	Steve Wulfers
15	832.43	Dave Freehill
16	812.69	Stevie Joslin
17	805.50	Barbara Neuges
18	750.72	Ray Dostal
19	735.34	Sallie Boge
20	620.41	Fred Spitzzeri
21	583.60	Mary Cralley
22	496.41	John Cralley
23	495.80	Larry Ziegler
24	406.73	Gene Byers
25	358.25	Chris Zogg

Other players:

13,137.39	Chris Benson-LeRoy
5,880.30	Larry Matheny-Colorado
5,697.06	Ron Sholes-Springfield
5,514.62	John Seng-Champaign
4,412.87	Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
3,658.41	Carole Sholes-Springfield
3,490.48	Mary Allen-Peoria
3,463.48	Terry Goodykoontz
2,689.15	Pat Carrington-Champaign
2,673.25	Georgia Heth-Morton
2,654.93	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
2,563.69	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
2,431.35	John Maloney-Champaign
2,249.71	Chuck Young-Peoria
2,006.48	Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
1,706.77	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
1,365.21	Dan Bunde-Urbana
1,285.77	Wes Seitz-Champaign
1,093.52	Bill Strauss-Urbana
846.65	Darryl Bremner-Clinton
796.61	Carole Miller-Champaign
789.22	Bill Thompson-Ft Myers,FL
707.15	Melda Richardson-California
613.79	Lane O'Connor-Naperville
577.94	Linda Odette-Palisade,CO
549.33	Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
514.76	John Ford-Harvard,MA
473.45	Ron Sinn-Peoria
470.80	Connie Tucker-Champaign





IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

with Larry Matheny



#1

Most new players believe a squeeze is something only an expert can execute. In fact, some squeezes take place by merely playing your remaining trumps. Here is a good example.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #42 ♠QJ
 Dlr N ♥Q1054
 Vul BOTH ♦J106
 ♣AK87

♠AK65
 ♥2
 ♦KQ72
 ♣Q1054



♠987
 ♥AK9876
 ♦9
 ♣J32

♠10432
 ♥J3
 ♦A8543
 ♣96

West	North	East	South
			2♥
DBL	4♥	All Pass	

BIDDING: South had a standard weak two bid and West made a takeout double. North's jump to 4♥ had two ways to win. First, it might make and second, there's a good chance the opponents could make a lot of spades.

PLAY: West led the ace and king of spades followed by the king of diamonds. He continued with a small diamond after receiving an encouraging card from his partner. East played the ace and declarer ruffed. Since he had lost three tricks, South had to avoid losing a club trick. There were two possibilities: 1) the queen was singleton or doubleton, or 2) West held the club queen along with the queen of diamonds. Declarer continued by ruffing his last spade and then played the remaining hearts. When the last trump was played, West had to discard from ♦Q ♣Q105 while dummy was behind him with ♦J ♣AK8.


This was definitely an error by West. To avoid the squeeze, he must continue with the queen of diamonds leaving the ace in his partner's hand. Now the squeeze fails because West can discard his diamond and keep three clubs. Note that East-West can make 4♣.

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#2

Defense can be one of the most difficult parts of bridge. Your most frequently used signal should be attitude followed by count. Another tool you and your partner should employ is the suit preference signal. The suit preference signal is the play of a high (or low) card when a shift is indicated. Take a look at this example. And, for flavor, imagine you are in a tournament and reach the table of two very cocky young men...

Scoring: Matchpoints

<i>Hand</i>	♠ 6					
<i>#43</i>	♥ J963					
<i>Dlr S</i>	♦ K1098					
<i>Vul E-W</i>	♣ 9653					
♠ KQ1074		♠ AJ983	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
♥ K108		♥ 5	1♠	3♥*	4♥	1♥
♦ 764		♦ AQ2	DBL	All Pass		5♥
♣ A10		♣ J874				
	♠ 52					
	♥ AQ742					
	♦ J53					
	♣ KQ2					

*Weak

BIDDING: After South opened the bidding 1♥ and West overcalled 1♠, North attempted to jam the auction with a weak jump to 3♥. But, East liked his hand and bid 4♥ to show a strong spade raise. Next, South tried to use the favorable vulnerability to sacrifice at the five level but West with a minimum overcall and heart cards better suited for defense, doubled for penalties. Holding long spades East was tempted to bid on but finally agreed to defend.

PLAY: West's opening lead was the king of spades and East followed with the jack. This unusually high card was a request for a diamond shift, the higher of the other two suits. Accordingly, West led a low diamond to East's queen. East then exited with a low club won by West after declarer played the king. West then led his last club to South's queen. Realizing the defenders were trying for a club ruff, declarer quickly played ace and another heart. West won his king and led a low diamond to East's ace. The defense wasn't through yet; when East cashed the club jack, West discarded his last diamond and East led a diamond for West to ruff. When the smoke cleared, South was down five tricks for -1100. Note that East-West can make five spades but not six.

Without the suit preference signal at trick one, West might shift to ace and another club. After winning the second heart he can lead a diamond to East and get a club ruff but this only beats the contract four tricks. Of course +800 is a good score but there are two hands to play with these opponents and all of a sudden they are very quiet....

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#3

Suit management is more than just finessing. You must be able to look at the entire hand and not just the suit you are about to play. Here is an instructive example.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #44	♠ J1054	West	North	East	South
Dlr N	♥ KQ7				
Vul E-	♦ QJ102		1♦	Pass	1♠
W	♣ K6				
♠ 9832		Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
♥ 1053	♠ K				
♦ A7	♥ J962	All			
♣ J1092	♦ 865	Pass			
	♣ AQ743				
	♠ AQ76				
	♥ A84				
	♦ K943				
	♣ 85				

BIDDING: North held a poor collection of cards but they included twelve high card points and he felt obligated to open 1♦. South had an easy jump to 4♠ after North's raise.

PLAY: West led the jack of clubs and declarer was in trouble. The defenders took the first two club tricks followed by the ace of diamonds. Declarer won the second diamond in dummy and had to find the king of spades in the East hand. Obviously the spade finesse must be taken but what card should declarer lead from dummy? The correct card should be a low spade to protect against the singleton king in the East hand. However, if there are no more entries to dummy, declarer must play a high spade to stay in the North hand if East fails to play the king.

In a local duplicate game, eight pairs reached the contract of 4♠ and four of them failed by one trick because they led a high spade. That nine of spades is a very valuable card.

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#4

The good declarer learns to use his entries to dummy wisely. Here is a good example of how important it is to study the entire hand before playing.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand	♠ QJ4					
#45	♥ 98743					
Dlr N	♦ 843					
Vul E-W	♣ 74					
♠ K1032	<table border="1" style="width: 40px; height: 40px; vertical-align: middle;"></table>	♠ 9865	West	North	East	South
♥ K		♥ J106		Pass	Pass	2NT
♦ K92		♦ Q75	Pass	3♦*	Pass	4♥
♣ J10962		♣ K53	All Pass			
	♠ A7					
	♥ AQ52					
	♦ AJ106					
	♣ AQ8					

*Jacoby Transfer

BIDDING: The South hand is a classic 2NT opener showing 20-21 high card points and a balanced hand. North was very weak but decided his hand was more valuable in a heart contract. South's leap to game showed four hearts and a maximum. This took North off the hook on whether to bid game or pass a 3♥ response.

PLAY: West thought he made a safe lead of the jack of clubs but it was into declarer's AQ combination. Declarer counted a possible spade loser, one or two heart losers, and possibly two more in the diamond suit. Since he needed to use his entries to dummy to lead diamonds and spades, he played the heart ace at trick two. Although it might seem lucky when the king dropped on his left, the only time it is correct to take a heart finesse is when there is specifically KX in the East hand. With so few entries, his play was correct. After cashing the heart queen, South played his other top club followed by a club ruff in dummy. Declarer next led a diamond from dummy and played the jack from his hand. Poor West won the king but was in a bad situation. He had no more hearts and a club return would give South a ruff/sluff, so he made his best return of a diamond. South won this in his hand and played his other good diamond. Now he needed to get to dummy to take the spade finesse so he ruffed the 13th diamond in dummy to lead a spade. The finesse lost but declarer made his contract losing one spade, one heart, and one diamond.

The important thing is declarer used his entries wisely. First he played the trump suit correctly and then realized although his last diamond was good, he needed to ruff it to get to dummy. Reminder: play the hand, not the suit. Also, note what happens if you take the heart finesse.

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Bloomington-Normal 70% club Year 2021 only

2021/9/18	71.43%	Larry Ziegler & John Ford
2021/8/8	72.38%	Dave & Zach Freehill
2021/8/9	70.48%	Mary Pat Killian & Bob Bray
2021/7/28	71.21%	Ray Dostal & Steve Wulfers
2021/7/12	75.83%	Fred Spitzzerie & Zach Freehill
2021/7/11	72.28%	Eunice Patton & Larry Ziegler
2021/7/7	70.83%	David Quigg & Rich Hagenauer
2021/7/7	70.83%	Hank Hoffman & Zach Freehill
2021/6/7	72.00%	Rick Kern & Michelle Tomlin(Mon eve pairs)
2021/5/31	73.26%	Larry Ziegler & John Ford
2021/5/5	70.43%	Chris Benson & David Quigg
2021/4/15	71.91%	Lori Moore & Mary Allen
2021/3/20	71.11%	Pat Lebeck & Lynn Steffen(299ers)
2021/2/11	70.74%	Lori Moore & Mary Allen
2021/2/19	70.37%	Mary Pat Killian & Rick Dalton
2021/2/11	71.85%	Lori Moore & Mary Allen
2021/1/16	70.28%	Larry Ziegler & John Ford
2021/1/15	71.61%	Mary Cralley & Charles Wiese



BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#045 – FIND THE LADY

	♠ KJT3 ♥ AQJ ♦ AJ95 ♣ J4	
♠ 9862 ♥ 98653 ♦ 7 ♣ KT2	North West East Declarer	♠ 7 ♥ 42 ♦ Q86 ♣ AQ98765
	♠ AQ54 ♥ KT7 ♦ KT432 ♣ 3	

With both sides vulnerable, East opened 3♣ (a weak bid, usually made with a 7-card suit), and South wound up declaring 6♠.

East's Ace won the opening Club lead and the next Club was ruffed by Declarer. Trumps were drawn in four rounds, East following once and then pitching three Clubs. Now all that remained was for Declarer to avoid losing a trick to the ♦Q. Was it a guess, or was it a certainty?

When the hand was actually played, our Declarer was familiar with the idea that, with a 9-card fit, it was customary to cash the Ace and King (playing for the Queen to drop in two rounds) rather than finessing. But (unfortunately) he

remembered that East's bidding had shown a long Club suit, and this persuaded him that West was therefore more likely to hold longer Diamonds. Accordingly, he cashed the ♦K, planning to finesse on the next round if West followed with a low Diamond. Poor Declarer got a nasty shock when, instead, West showed out and it was *East* who turned out to have the Diamond length. Down two (East still has a Club winner and the trumps are all gone) in a cold slam!

Declarer should have gone fishing for extra clues before taking the crucial Diamond guess. If (after drawing trumps) he cashes three Hearts first, East will show out on the third round. Now Declarer has a perfect count on the hand. East started with one Spade, two Hearts and (based on the bidding and the play) seven Clubs. That means East has three Diamonds, and leading a Diamond to Dummy's Ace, and finessing on the second round, is guaranteed to succeed.



#046 – “NICE TRY, PARTNER”

	♠ J7532 ♥ 3 ♦ 9765 ♣ J62	
♠ Q ♥ T84 ♦ QJ42 ♣ KQ753	North West East Declarer	♠ T9 ♥ KQ76 ♦ AKT ♣ AT94
	♠ AK864 ♥ AJ952 ♦ 83 ♣ 8	

E-W Vulnerable

East	South	West	North
1NT	2♠	3♠	4♠
Dbl	All Pass		

Opposite a 15-17 1NT, West had the HCP for game and cue-bid 3♠, hoping that East had something in Spades and could bid 3NT. Does North’s 4♠ seem a bit nutty? Or completely so? It was neither, North expected that 4♠ doubled would be a good sacrifice against an E-W game.

Yes, North fully expected that 4♠ would go down and South went out of his way not to disappoint her. The play went like this: ♠K and ♦K and ♦A were cashed; Club ruffed by Declarer;

trumps drawn in two rounds; Heart ruff; Diamond ruff; Heart ruff; Diamond ruff; Heart ruff. If you have worked your way through this orgy of ruffing you will see that Declarer had by now scored 9 tricks and had finally established that long Heart in his hand. That was the good news. The bad news was that all the trumps were now gone, the lead was in Dummy, and there was no way back to Declarer’s hand to score that long Heart. Down one!

North politely said “Nice try, Partner” which in this case loosely translates to “You blundering imbecile!” A nicer try by Declarer would have been to use his trump entries to better effect. After ruffing the Club, Declarer should cash the ♥A, ruff a Heart, return to hand with a trump and ruff another Heart. This subtle change in timing solves the entry problem and now, by the time that the Hearts are finally ruffed out, there will still be a way back to Declarer’s hand (via another ruff). Making four! “Nicely played, Partner!”



#047 – A SMOOTH DUCK

	♠ QT754 ♥ AQT9 ♦ 64 ♣ 83	
♠ K63 ♥ 63 ♦ KT982 ♣ T52	North West East Declarer	♠ J2 ♥ K8542 ♦ A5 ♣ 9764
	♠ A98 ♥ J7 ♦ QJ73 ♣ AKQJ	

Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Some N-S pairs might blunder into 4♠ (down one), but our own N-S stumbled instead into 3NT. West led a Diamond (the Ten is standard from that holding) won by East's Ace. Then a Diamond to the Queen and King, and a third Diamond. Declarer won that, lost the Heart finesse, but now had 9 easy tricks (a Spade, 3 Hearts, a Diamond, 4 Clubs).

The defense could have done better! It was fine to lead and continue Diamonds, but East missed a chance when Declarer took that Heart finesse. Yes, indeed, East should smoothly duck that trick! When Declarer repeats the Heart finesse, East pounces with the King and shoots back a Club. With no entries to Dummy's Hearts, Declarer is up the creek and down one.

Next, suppose that, when the Heart finesse is taken, East ducks, but this time not smoothly. Now a resourceful Declarer may smell a rat, in which case he can make the contract anyway. He wins the second round of Hearts with the Ace, and cashes the Clubs. By now West is down to ♠K6 and ♦82. Declarer has ♠A98 and ♦7 and will exit with the Diamond. After taking his two Diamonds, West is forced to play Spades, and if Declarer guesses correctly he will play the ♠Q and make his contract.

Post Script: Of course, it would be quite improper for East, when *not* holding the ♥K, to fake out Declarer by hesitatingly unduly on the first Heart, simulating a non-smooth duck. Such shenanigans are OK for poker, but not for bridge.



#048 – THE CUSTOMARY RETORT

	♠ 32 ♥ Q832 ♦ AK52 ♣ K43	
♠ KQT97 ♥ 4 ♦ 98763 ♣ 75	North West East Declarer	♠ J8 ♥ 765 ♦ QJT4 ♣ QJT2
	♠ A654 ♥ AKJT9 ♦ ♣ A986	

E-W Vulnerable

	South	West	North	East
			1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass	
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass	

After that bold leap to 6♥, West leads the ♠K. Declarer can count 10 top tricks (consisting of 5 trumps and 5 side-suit winners). Our question to you is “Where are the other two tricks coming from?”

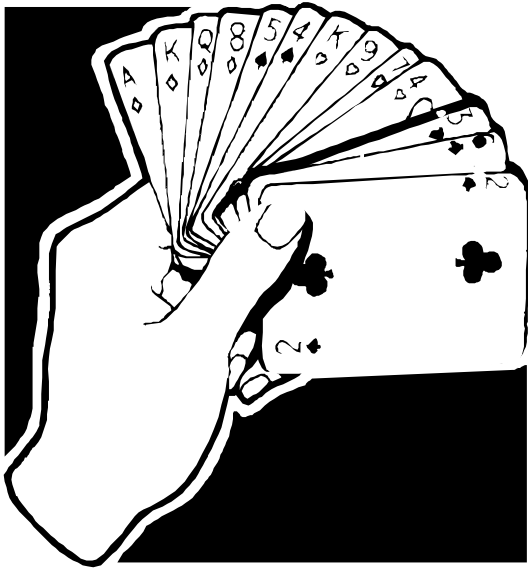
Will it help Declarer’s cause to ruff two Diamonds? No, those ruffs are in the “long hand”. Declarer’s five trumps have already been included in the trick total, and using two of

them for ruffing does not create two extra trump tricks. But getting a couple of ruffs in the “short hand”, well that is an entirely different kettle of fish. That’s right, Declarer can make his contract is by arranging two Spade ruffs in Dummy.

Getting those ruffs must be done early in the play. It won’t do to draw two rounds of trumps (hoping they are 2-2) and then to lose a Spade. In that case, East will win the Spade and fire back another trump, holding the Spade ruffs to just one. It’s OK to draw just one round of trumps, but then the Spade trick must be conceded. Now, whatever the defense does, Declarer gets those two ruffs in the short hand for a total of 12 tricks.

It was fortunate for Declarer that Dummy showed up with the ♥8! If you were to exchange Dummy’s ♥8 with East’s ♥7, then the slam fails (East can over-ruff one of the Spade tricks). When East curses his rotten luck in being dealt that inadequate ♥7, the customary retort is “But we would never have bid the slam without the ♥8”





Please see schedules on page 1



**AMERICAN CONTRACT
BRIDGE LEAGUE**

— DEALING INFINITE POSSIBILITIES —