

Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 23 Number 11 – November, 2021



November 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

Wednesdays, 12:30pm – 299ers only pairs

Saturdays, 12:30pm – open pairs

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 10/6/2021 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



1	4,379.09	Steve Babin
2	3,656.09	JoAnn Schroeder
3	3,480.52	Zack Freehill
4	3,331.25	Eunice Patton
5	2,996.86	Cindy Moore
6	2,464.96	Mike Tomlianovich
7	2,353.13	Ann Schuyler
8	2,256.61	Lori Moore
9	1,817.32	Ron Emmett
10	1,556.37	Joyce Clay
11	1,553.77	Jeff Furler
12	1,272.27	Jeanne Strand
13	1,166.30	Steve Wulfers
14	1,161.80	Ivey Weaver
15	833.63	Dave Freehill
16	807.70	Barbara Neuges
17	759.89	Ray Dostal
18	743.61	Sallie Boge
19	621.93	Fred Spitzzeri
20	583.76	Mary Cralley
21	501.81	Larry Ziegler
22	496.57	John Cralley
23	410.78	Gene Byers
24	361.09	Chris Zogg
25	342.42	Joyce Werner

Other players:

13,171.07	Chris Benson-LeRoy
5,827.02	Larry Matheny-Colorado
5,718.82	Ron Sholes-Springfield
5,518.02	John Seng-Champaign
4,431.80	Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
3,669.53	Carole Sholes-Springfield
3,494.29	Mary Allen-Peoria
3,476.47	Terry Goodykoontz
2,689.15	Pat Carrington-Champaign
2,673.25	Georgia Heth-Morton
2,654.93	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
2,570.42	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
2,431.59	John Maloney-Champaign
2,264.13	Chuck Young-Peoria
2,013.30	Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
1,717.56	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
1,366.61	Dan Bunde-Urbana
1,296.64	Wes Seitz-Champaign
1,095.92	Bill Strauss-Urbana
851.07	Darryl Bremner-Canton
799.96	Bill Thompson-Ft Myers,FL
798.69	Carole Miller-Champaign
716.70	Melda Richardson-California
613.79	Lane O'Connor-Naperville
577.94	Linda Odette-Palisade,CO
551.26	Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
517.23	John Ford-Harvard,MA
484.17	Ron Sinn-Peoria
484.12	Connie Tucker-Champaign






IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

with Larry Matheny



#1 There is no doubt that defense can be very difficult. However, a well reasoned plan of attack can also be rewarding. Sometimes it all comes down to who holds the nine of trumps. Take a look at this hand.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #46	♣1076				
Dlr N	♥Q9752				
Vul E-	♦A				
W	♣KQ106				
♠943		♠QJ	West	North	East
♥6		♥AK843		Pass	Pass
♦9874		♦10632	Pass	2♣*	Pass
♣A9832		♣J4	All Pass		
	♠AK852				South
	♥J10				1♠
	♦KQJ5				4♣
	♣75				

BIDDING: Both North and East had near openers but chose to pass. After hearing South open 1♠, North's passed hand bid of 2♣ was the Drury convention. This showed spade support with near opening values. The advantage of this convention is that North did not have to jump to the three level to show his hand. This is particularly helpful when South opens light in third seat. South liked his fourteen high card points and jumped to game.

PLAY: West led his heart and East knew from the missing cards that it was a singleton. East was reluctant to establish North's heart queen for a later discard so at trick two he returned a low heart for his partner to ruff. Declarer quickly wrapped up his game losing only two hearts and one club.

The flaw in East's thinking was that a discard was unlikely to help declarer. Since West would undoubtedly have bid over 1♠ if he held seven diamonds, the only singleton South could logically hold would be in clubs. If that was the case, the contract could not be defeated because South would simply discard his club on the third round of hearts. Therefore the only way to beat the hand was to find West with the right spade holding. Note that after winning the first two hearts, a third round allows West to ruff with the nine. If declarer ruffs the third heart with a high honor, he later loses a trick to the spade queen.

#2

Matchpoints (pairs) is a very different game. Your goal isn't to just make or defeat a contract, rather you must strive for the largest plus or smallest minus possible. Sometimes you might even risk the contract.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #47	♠10543				
Dir N	♥864				
Vul E-	♦J42				
W	♣Q87				
♠J97		♠Q82			
♥532		♥9			
♦K965		♦Q873			
♣542		♣AJ1096			
		♠AK6			
		♥AKQJ107			
		♦A10			
		♣K3			

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♣*	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

* Second Negative

BIDDING: South had a huge hand but his partner showed only 0-4 high card points with his two bids. South had 9+ tricks in his hand so offered 3NT but North sought the safety of a trump suit by bidding 4♥.

PLAY: West had no obvious lead so tried to risk nothing by leading a trump. Declarer won this in his hand and noted that dummy's eight of hearts was now an entry. South saw that he only had three losers, one spade, one diamond, and one club, so his task was to find a way to make an overtrick. Although the opponents' spades divide 3-3 only 36% of the time, this seemed his best chance. So he drew one more round of trumps and then played ace, king, and another spade. He was rewarded when the spades behaved and he was able to enter dummy with the heart eight and discard his small diamond on the last spade. He would have gone down in a cold contract if one of the opponent's had a singleton (or void) in spades, but it was a slight risk.

Note that the opponents could not have prevented the overtrick. If West leads a diamond at trick one, declarer wins the ace and later leads the ten to establish the jack for a discard for his losing spade. At rubber bridge or in a team game, declarer would probably just claim ten tricks after the opening lead.

#3

Competing over the opponents' 1NT opening bid can be dangerous but it is often advantageous to interrupt their auction. There are many popular conventions available to show different types of hands and you should discuss these with your partner. Of course, every now and then you have one that doesn't work quite so well. Take a look at this one.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #48	♠K8752				
	♥9				
Dir E	♦Q87654				
Vul E-W	♣6				
♠1043		♠AQJ6	West	North	East
♥Q10853		♥62			1NT
♦K		♦AJ1032	DBL	Pass	Pass
♣Q1085		♣KJ	DBL	3♦	DBL
			DBL	All Pass	
	♠9				South
	♥AKJ74				2♥*
	♦9				3♣
	♣A97432				4♣

* Hearts and a minor

BIDDING: East opened an off-shape 1NT and South was eager to show his two-suited hand. West could not believe his good fortune and made a penalty double. South was not concerned and cheerfully bid his second suit asking his partner to take a preference. Again West doubled and North had a difficult decision. He fell from grace by introducing his own six-card suit and East had an easy double. South finally retreated to his longer suit and 4♣ doubled became the final contract.

PLAY: West made the nice lead of the five of clubs and South could only manage five tricks for down five and -1100 points. South muttered, "At least we weren't vulnerable". North also muttered something under his breath. South really should compete with his hand, particularly at favorable vulnerability, but he just ran into a buzz saw. This hand is an argument against playing the "stolen bid" convention. Playing that convention, a double by West would say "he took my bid" which would be a transfer to spades. The penalty double is a valuable tool to give up.

Note that East-West do not have game and without interference, might have ended up playing 2♥.

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#4

A good declarer will take his time before deciding how to play a hand. Sometimes a simple solution is difficult to see. Try your luck with this one.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #49
 Dlr E
 Vul E-
 W

♠QJ10		♠94
♥K876		♥A42
♦83		♦J952
♣Q952		♣K876

♠AK83
 ♥109
 ♦764
 ♣AJ103

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♥	Pass	1♣
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

BIDDING: North-South had a standard auction to reach the 4♠ contract.

PLAY: It is often correct to lead a trump when the opponents have bid two suits and ended in a third. Declarer might need to cross-ruff (trump cards in both hands) to succeed. Following this logic, West led the queen of spades. Several declarers counted six losers: one spade, two hearts, and three clubs. They won the first trick and tried to ruff clubs in dummy. Entries back to the South hand were scarce and most declarers failed by one trick. This is really a very simple hand to play. Look at the contract from the North hand. Assuming the trumps behave, you only have to lose one spade and two hearts. If necessary, you can ruff the last diamond in the South hand.

This practice of only looking at the contract from declarer's hand is a frequent mistake.

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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



#049 – MANAGING THE ENTRIES

This week's hand comes from a duplicate bridge event, where the method of scoring generously rewards making overtricks.

♠ AKT9 ♥ Q ♦ 987 ♣ T9764		
♠ Q832 ♥ AT75 ♦ T43 ♣ KQ	North West East Declarer	♠ J7654 ♥ 832 ♦ KJ52 ♣ J
♠ ♥ KJ964 ♦ AQ6 ♣ A8532		

E-W Vulnerable

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

Can you make 10 tricks after a low Diamond lead? Our title is one clue, and we'll also say that West is a slippery cove, and that the play in Clubs is crucial. Alright, that's enough clues, now please make 10 tricks.

Our Declarer managed only 9 tricks. He won the Diamond lead, cashed the ♠A and conceded a Club, playing low from the board both times. West won the second Club and

persevered with Diamonds. Declarer correctly ducked and took the next Diamond, hoping that the defender with the ♥A was not the one with the 13th Diamond. Then Declarer led to the ♥Q but that rascally West ducked the trick! This fine play meant that Declarer could not score a second Heart trick ... with ♣T97 on the board and ♣853 in hand there was only one entry back to hand when two were needed (one to knock out the ♥A, the other to get back to the Heart winner). Making only 9 tricks.

West made a good play by ducking the Heart but Declarer did not have to give him a chance to shine. On the first two rounds of Clubs, Declarer should play Dummy's ♣9 and ♣T. Now, with ♣764 on the board and ♣853 in hand, there are two entries to hand, and also one back to the board later, with which to reach the ♠AK. Careful management of the entries nullifies West's clever duck and brings in that valuable overtrick.



#050 – RIGHT-SIDING THE CONTRACT

	♠ 53 ♥ 3 ♦ 964 ♣ AQ98432	
♠ AQJ962 ♥ JT2 ♦ K532 ♣	<i>North</i>	♠ T87 ♥ 98764 ♦ T87 ♣ 76
	<i>West</i> <i>East</i>	
	<i>Declarer</i>	
	♠ K4 ♥ AKQ5 ♦ AQJ ♣ KJT5	

N-S Vulnerable

	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
		1♠	3♣	Pass
6NT	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

As can be seen, 6♣ (played from the North side) is down one in a hurry after East’s opening Spade lead. So South sensibly bid 6NT to “right-side” the contract, putting West on lead and protecting the ♠K. Against 6NT, West leads the ♥J. Can you make 12 tricks?

Declarer can count only 11 top tricks and can be sure (from the bidding) that the ♦K and ♠A are both with West. Does that mean that 6NT is destined to fail? Actually, no, because Declarer can organize an end-play. Declarer wins the opening Heart lead, cashes the other Heart winners and rattles off 7 Clubs. West’s last three cards will presumably be ♠A and ♦K5, and Declarer will come down to ♠K and ♦AQ. Now, West is thrown in with a Spade and must lead a Diamond, giving Declarer her 12th trick. That pretty ending is known as a Strip Squeeze.

Post Script: West might have thwarted the squeeze by coming down to ♠AQ and ♦K, but an astute Declarer will suspect that West has the ♠Q for his opening bid and will play to drop the ♦K instead of trying the Spade throw-in. A more thoughtful West will bare the ♦K early in his discards, and will also pitch away the ♠Q and ♠J, coming down to the fiendishly devious ♠A6 and ♦K! Nobody would fault Declarer for now assuming that West started life with 5=3=5=0 distribution, and for misguessing the end-game as a result. Wicked defense, Mr West!



#051 – SIDE-SUITS FIRST

In our first bridge lesson we are taught to draw the defenders' trumps early in the play, lest they start ruffing our winners. We then spend the rest of our lives discovering (sometimes painfully) that there are exceptions to this rule.

	♠ J74 ♥ A9765 ♦ 92 ♣ AKJ	
♠ Q532 ♥ K832 ♦ Q4 ♣ QT2	North West East Declarer	♠ AKT986 ♥ Q4 ♦ KT753 ♣
	♠ ♥ JT ♦ AJ86 ♣ 9876543	

E-W Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
		1♥	1♠
2♣	2♠	3♣	4♠
5♣	Dbl	All Pass	

With extreme distribution around the table (or at least in the S-E corner), it's not unusual for the bidding to keep on going until someone finally says "Enough already, I double you!" Here, West questions South's ability to make 11 tricks in Clubs.

After ruffing the opening Spade lead, one (faulty) plan would be to ruff a couple of Diamonds, but that would set up a natural trump trick for the defense (two, as it happens, because the suit splits 3-0). The winning plan is to set up the Hearts, and some trumps must be kept in reserve in order to provide Dummy entries later in the play. It's OK to play a trump to the Ace at Trick 2, and then the play continues: Spade ruff; ♥J losing to East's Queen; Diamond shift won by the Ace; ♥T is run around; Club to Dummy; ♥A is cashed (pitching a Diamond); Heart ruff; Club back to the board. Now another Diamond is pitched on the long Heart and Declarer has her 11 tricks (7 trumps, 3 Hearts and the ♦A). Not a difficult hand for those who didn't use up Dummy's trumps before tackling Hearts.

Anyone for 4♠? Yes, that's another contract where it doesn't pay to draw trumps immediately. In this case it is the Diamonds which must be established early, and Declarer goes down if he ruffs the opening Club lead and then draws three rounds of trumps. Instead the play goes: Club ruff; ♠A; Diamond to the Queen; Heart to the Queen; lose a Diamond. Now Declarer is in control and loses just two red Aces and a Diamond overruff.



#052 – PAYBACK TIME

In recent Bridge Bites, our West has been a bit of a pest, frequently coming up with dastardly plays which make Declarer's life difficult. This week we are delighted to report that West makes a slight slip and becomes the victim.

	♠ J975 ♥ 872 ♦ J96 ♣ A95	
♠ A ♥ JT ♦ AKQ84 ♣ Q8732	<i>North</i>	♠ T3 ♥ Q6543 ♦ 753 ♣ JT4
	<i>West East Declarer</i>	
	♠ KQ8642 ♥ AK9 ♦ T2 ♣ K6	

E-W Vulnerable

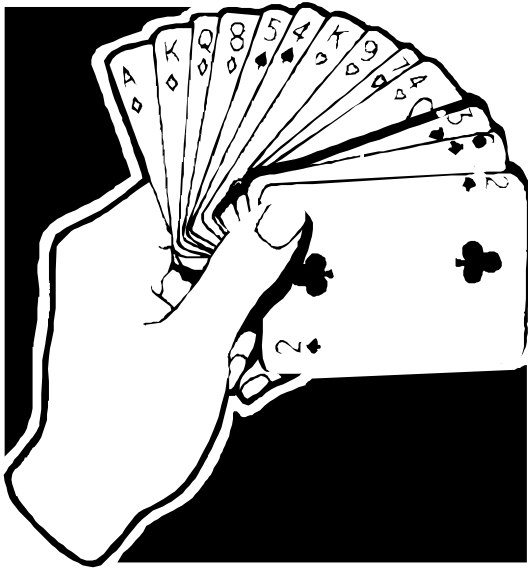
<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
1♠	2♦	2♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Perhaps South was a little boisterous in the bidding, a more prudent player would have merely invited game. But making seemingly impossible contracts is one of the joys of the game, and your job is to make 10 tricks after West plays three rounds of Diamonds.

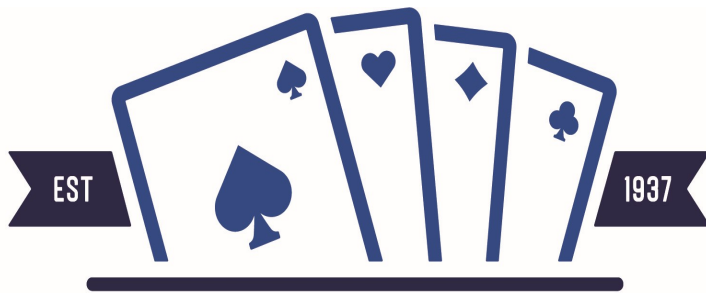
It looks pretty grim, doesn't it? Two Diamonds have already been lost, the ♠A is another loser, and there appears to be an inescapable Heart loser. Down one? No, it's too soon to give up! Declarer has a long-shot route to success, which requires that West started with the singleton trump Ace and no more than two Hearts. Step 1 is to cash the top Clubs and ruff a Club. Step 2 is to cash the ♥A and the ♥K. Now, Step 3 is to exit with a trump. Let's relish West's discomfort! Declarer's fine play has eliminated all of West's safe exit cards. With nothing left but Diamonds and Clubs, whatever West plays will give Declarer a ruff and discard ... he'll ruff the return in one hand and discard the "inescapable" Heart loser from the other. Making 10 tricks!

You see where West went wrong, of course. He needed to cash the ♠A early in the play (before the third round of Diamonds). Now, the elimination play does not work, and Declarer will eventually be down one.





Please see schedules on page 1



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BRIDGE LEAGUE**

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