

# Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 23 Number 12 – December, 2021



## December 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 - 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(no game on 12/25 & 1/1)**

**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 11/6/2021 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only  
paid up ACBL members only



1	4,396.71	Steve Babin
2	3,690.48	JoAnn Schroeder
3	3,493.41	Zack Freehill
4	3,336.90	Eunice Patton
5	3,019.62	Cindy Moore
6	2,473.77	Mike Tomlianovich
7	2,358.24	Ann Schuyler
8	2,271.10	Lori Moore
9	1,823.76	Ron Emmett
10	1,574.47	Joyce Clay
11	1,563.34	Jeff Furler
12	1,272.27	Jeanne Strand
13	1,182.48	Steve Wulfers
14	1,161.80	Ivey Weaver
15	839.01	Dave Freehill
16	810.87	Barbara Neuges
17	765.61	Ray Dostal
18	748.94	Sallie Boge
19	627.91	Fred Spitzzeri
20	587.42	Mary Cralley
21	504.86	Larry Ziegler
22	497.13	John Cralley
23	417.35	Gene Byers
24	369.99	Chris Zogg
25	348.91	Marilyn Byers

### Other players:

13,171.34	Chris Benson-LeRoy
5,841.59	Larry Matheny-Colorado
5,739.64	Ron Sholes-Springfield
5,527.74	John Seng-Champaign
4,447.93	Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
3,683.74	Carole Sholes-Springfield
3,508.28	Mary Allen-Peoria
3,493.82	Terry Goodykoontz
2,689.15	Pat Carrington-Champaign
2,677.18	Georgia Heth-Morton
2,654.93	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
2,586.26	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
2,435.81	John Maloney-Champaign
2,275.77	Chuck Young-Peoria
2,017.54	Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
1,738.94	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
1,369.66	Dan Bunde-Urbana
1,308.43	Wes Seitz-Champaign
1,098.97	Bill Strauss-Urbana
862.67	Darryl Bremner-Clinton
813.06	Bill Thompson-Ft Myers,FL
800.87	Carole Miller-Champaign
719.10	Melda Richardson-California
616.38	Lane O'Connor-Naperville
577.94	Linda Odette-Palisade,CO
555.80	Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
522.17	John Ford-Harvard,MA
496.70	Ron Sinn-Peoria
492.89	Connie Tucker-Champaign





# IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

with Larry Matheny



#1

Executing a good play at bridge is very rewarding, but it can be hazardous to your health to brag about it. Here is a good example:

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #50	♠ J943					
Dlr N	♥ Q853					
Vul N-S	♦ A4					
	♣ J53					
♠ KQ62		♠ 75	West	North	East	South
♥ J		♥ 2		Pass	Pass	4♥
♦ K10832		♦ QJ765	Pass	Pass	4NT	Pass
♣ K76		♣ Q10982	5♦	5♥	All Pass	
	♠ A108					
	♥ AK109764					
	♦ 9					
	♣ A4					

**BIDDING:** I was sitting South with a very nice hand and after my partner passed and East passed, I opened 4♥. My hand was perhaps too good for this bid but I wanted to make it difficult for the opponents to enter the auction. Unfortunately, East competed with 4NT showing both minors. After West took a preference to diamonds, my partner ended the auction with 5♥. Note the vulnerability made it easier for East-West to compete.

**PLAY:** West led a diamond and I counted three possible losers, two spades and one club. I needed to find one of the spade honors in the East hand but after she showed length in both minors, it was very likely that West held them both. My solution was to attempt an elimination play. I won the diamond ace and ruffed dummy's other diamond in my hand. I then drew trumps in one round and played ace and another club. West won with the king and played another club which I trumped. Now I only had to lead a trump to dummy and pass the jack of spades. West won but was end played. He had to lead a spade or give me a sluff and a ruff allowing me to discard my other spade loser. I thought, "I love this game".

At dinner between sessions I casually asked my friend her result on the hand and she said, "West led the king of spades so I was able to discard my losing club on dummy's fourth spade and made six. What did you do"? I took another bite and said, "Okay, what about the next hand". I thought, "I hate this game".

Note that West erred by winning the second club. He must allow East to win the trick and return a spade to break up the end play. Also note that East-West's 5♦ contract will go down only two tricks for -300 and that's a good sacrifice over 4♥.

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#2

When defending you must stay alert and be aware of declarer's game plan. If not, you could allow a bad contract to succeed. Take a look at this one.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #51	♠876				
Dlr N	♥AJ				
Vul E-W	♦AQ73				
	♣AJ32				
♠KQ1094	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	♠A2	West	North	East
♥Q1083		♥K97642		1NT	Pass
♦J4		♦K1092	All Pass		South
♣Q9		♣8			3♣*
	♠J53				
	♥5				
	♦865				
	♣K107654				

\*Weak

**BIDDING:** My partner in the North chair opened 1NT and I bid 3♣ to show a weak hand with a long suit. The opponents wanted to enter the auction but the unfavorable vulnerability scared them off. Note they can make 4♥.

**PLAY:** West led the king of spades and East overtook with the ace to play a second one. West captured the second and third round of spades and after seeing East's encouraging signal of the heart 9, switched to a low heart. I had lost three tricks and still had two possible diamond losers. I rose with the ace of hearts and drew trumps in two rounds. I then ruffed dummy's last heart to my hand to lead a low diamond. West played the four and I let my five run around to East. He won the trick but was end played. He must return a diamond into the AQ or give me a sluff and a ruff to discard the other losing diamond from my hand.

I'm sure you have noticed that West erred by not playing his jack of diamonds on my five. He knew I had no more spades or hearts so his partner would be in bad shape after winning the first diamond. The play of the jack leaves me with two diamond losers and I'm down one. If I held the diamond nine or ten in either hand, the end play could not be prevented. Those spot cards are important. Also note that East must hope his partner holds the heart queen and duck when the jack is led from dummy. If he plays the king, he will be end-played into returning a diamond or concede a ruff/sluff. Defense is not easy.

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#3

Here is another hand that shows how important overtricks are in matchpoint (pairs) events. See how you would have done.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #52	♠652				
Dlr N	♥Q83				
	♦AK75				
Vul E-	♣K103				
W		West	North	East	South
♠10	♠J743		1♦	Pass	1♠
♥10742	♥J6	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*
♦QJ10	♦9832	Pass	2♠	Pass	6♠
♣QJ752	♣986	All Pass			
	♠AKQ98				
	♥AK95				
	♦64				
	♣A4				

\*New Minor Forcing

**BIDDING:** North rebid 1NT to show a balanced 12-14 point hand. South bid an artificial 2♣ (New Minor Forcing) to find out if his partner held spade support. North's 2♠ bid showed three card support but a minimum raise. South felt there should be some play for slam so he bid it. He decided to bid 6♠ instead of 6NT in case he needed to ruff a heart in dummy.

**PLAY:** West led the queen of diamonds and South could count twelve tricks as long as the trump suit wasn't a problem. And a thirteenth trick was there if the hearts divided 3-3. Unfortunately, those same tricks would be available for those in 6NT. First things first, he led the top two trumps to find the bad break. It was easy to reach dummy to take the spade finesse, draw trumps, and he was back up to twelve tricks. Now in search of the overtrick, at trick one East played the nine of diamonds to show his partner he also held the eight so no squeeze was likely that included the diamond suit. But, if West held four or more hearts along with the club queen and jack, he could be squeezed. It was a long shot but it didn't cost anything to try. Accordingly, South played the king of diamonds, the top three hearts, and then the last trump. West now had to discard from: ♥10 and the ♣QJ7 while dummy was behind him with the ♣K103 and declarer held the ♥9. Obviously this same squeeze is available to those in 6NT but it is always important to try for the extra trick.

Note that all we did to execute the squeeze was to play off our winners. However, when you entered dummy to take the spade finesse, I hope you didn't use the king of clubs. That will ruin the squeeze.

#4

The double has many roles in modern bridge. Gone are the days when it was used only to punish the overbidders. Today it can be for takeout, penalty, showing a control, asking for a control, or simply card (value) showing. Here is an example.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #53	♠KJ1076					
Dlr W	♥AJ6					
Vul N-S	♦753					
	♣AQ					
♠9854		♠A2	West	North	East	South
♥KQ1084	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	♥32	Pass		Pass	1NT*
♦4		♦KJ86		1		
♣874		♣J9532	2♥	Pass	Pass	DBL
			Pass	3NT	All Pass	
	♠Q3					
	♥975					
	♦AQ1092					
	♣K106					

\*forcing

**BIDDING:** The North-South pair use the popular 2/1 bidding system with five-card majors and a forcing 1NT response. In this system, a 2♦ response would be game forcing so South bid 1NT over his partner's 1♠. West, who had passed originally, now bid 2♥ on very skimpy values. North was tempted to double but passed in case his partner was very weak. South had extra values so he doubled to show a tolerance for the other suits with no fit in spades. North might have passed and defended 2♥ but at this vulnerability he realized they would have to defeat the contract four tricks to improve on the +600 available in no-trump.

**PLAY:** West led his fourth best heart that rode around to declarer's nine. South's queen of spades then lost to the ace. East saw there was no future in hearts and switched to a low diamond. South won with the nine and soon had 12 tricks: 4 spades, 2 hearts, 3 diamonds, and 3 clubs.

Note that West would probably be able to make five tricks in 2♥ doubled for -500. The vulnerability is very important and your bidding must take this into consideration. If West had been vulnerable, down three would be -800. The double is a very versatile and deadly tool.

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## Bloomington-Normal 70% club Year 2021 only

2021/11/10	70.14%	Chris Benson & Steve Babin
2021/11/10	76.25%	Donna Uhlenhop & Jane Franklin(Wed aft 299ers pairs)
2021/11/1	71.22%	Leonard Wochner & Doug Lamb(Mon eve pairs)
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



### #053 – TIMING IS EVERYTHING

	♠ T ♥ 9765 ♦ A9632 ♣ AKQ	
♠ KQJ9653 ♥ T8 ♦ 85 ♣ 54	<i>North</i>	♠ 4 ♥ KQJ ♦ KQJT4 ♣ T763
	<i>West East Declarer</i>	
	♠ A872 ♥ A432 ♦ 7 ♣ J982	

*E-W Vulnerable*

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

West's 2♠ (showing long Spades and not much else) pushed N-S into the precarious contract of 4♥. Look at what happened in actual play, and then figure out how you would have done better as Declarer.

West led the ♠K, won by Declarer's Ace. With six side-suit tricks it would be necessary to score four trump tricks, and as the trump suit was so weak it was apparent that some ruffing would be required. One line that would clearly not work would be to get the enemy trumps out of the way first, that would leave Declarer a trick short (scoring only three trump tricks). So Declarer cashed the ♥A at Trick 2, and then, leaving three enemy trumps at large, he played on the side-suits. His general plan was to let the opponents take their trumps whenever they wished, but that was all they would get. He started with Dummy's high Clubs, but West ruffed the third round and played another Spade. Dummy ruffed, East over-ruffed and cashed her high Heart, leaving Declarer with just 9 tricks.

Declarer needed to time the play better if he was to score 10 tricks. At Trick 2 he must duck a trump! Now, he wins the Diamond return, plays the Ace of trumps and (leaving one enemy trump at large) goes about his business of cashing winners and cross-ruffing. Altogether Declarer has 11 potential tricks via the ♥A, four ruffs and six side-suit winners, but that enemy trump will rub out one of those tricks and reduce the total to 10. Making 4♥, thanks to careful timing.



#054 – A ROAD MAP

	♠ T ♥ 9765 ♦ A9632 ♣ AKQ	
♠ KQJ9653 ♥ 8 ♦ J8 ♣ 543	North  West East  Declarer	♠ 4 ♥ KQJT ♦ KQT54 ♣ T76
	♠ A872 ♥ A432 ♦ 7 ♣ J982	

*E-W Vulnerable*

West	North	East	South
		1♦	Pass
2♠	Dbl	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass

If the N-S hands look familiar, that's because they were featured in last week's Bridge Bite. But the E-W hands have been changed, and East, who now has four trumps, could not resist doubling 4♥. That was not a wise move, as we are about to see.

Last week, in the absence of a Double, Declarer played for 3-2 trumps, and as that turned out to be the case, 10 tricks could be made by winning the Spade lead, and ducking a round of trumps at Trick 2. Declarer could win the return, draw just one more round of trumps and, leaving one trump at large, could cash winners and cross-ruff his way to 10 tricks.

But this week Declarer has to make 10 tricks after East has doubled. Now it seems likely that East has 4 trumps and ducking a trump at Trick 2 will not work. East wins and returns a trump, and will later get in (with a Spade over-ruff or a Club ruff), draw another round of trumps and leave Declarer a trick short. So, guided by the Double, Declarer does not duck a trump at Trick 2. Instead, she cashes the ♥A and goes for three Diamond ruffs in her hand (confident that West is now out of trumps and cannot over-ruff). The play goes: ♠A; ♥A; ♦A; Diamond ruff; ♠A; Diamond ruff; ♠K; ♠Q; Diamond ruff. That's 9 tricks and when the ♣J is played next, there will be a 10<sup>th</sup> trick, one way or another.

No doubt East's Double seemed like a good idea at the time, but in fact it only served to give Declarer a road map to the winning line of play, by alerting him to the likely 4-1 trump split.



#055 – THAT SINKING FEELING

	♠ AK42 ♥ ♦ 764 ♣ AKT654	
♠ 765 ♥ T762 ♦ KQT95 ♣ 3	North  West East  Declarer	♠ ♥ QJ9543 ♦ J82 ♣ QJ98
	♠ QJT983 ♥ AK8 ♦ A3 ♣ 72	

The auction has not been recorded for posterity, but we can say that N-S must have bid quite superbly in order to reach the excellent contract of 7♠. “Nicely bid, Partner! A cold grand slam with only 28 combined HCP!” enthused Declarer when Dummy was tabled after the opening lead of the ♦K. Declarer was quite right, the slam was cold, but not the way that he played it. Of course, you can do better. How do you propose to make 13 tricks?

Declarer didn’t bother to count his tricks, perhaps feeling that it would have been rather unsporting to waste time when he had so many trumps and Club winners. At Trick 2, he played a trump to Dummy’s Ace and, when East showed out,

Declarer paused for thought (one trick too late!). It was then that he got that awful sinking feeling in the pit of his stomach, realizing that he could no longer get two ruffs in Dummy because of the shortage of entries back to his hand. Getting only one ruff would leave him a trick short, so he tried to set up the Clubs, but that lifeline failed him when the suit was 4-1. Down one!

“Rotten luck”, sympathized North, in soothing tones. “If Spades or Clubs had broken reasonably you would have made your slam”. What North politely refrained from saying was “Why on earth didn’t you win the opening Diamond lead, cash the Hearts (pitching Diamonds), ruff a Diamond *high*, get back to hand with a trump, ruff a Heart *high*, cross back with another trump, and draw the last trump?”



#056 – FINESSE FATALE

	♠ J94 ♥ 5 ♦ AJ643 ♣ 7542	
♠ K53 ♥ KQT2 ♦ Q9872 ♣ J	<i>North</i>	♠ 2 ♥ AJ984 ♦ KT ♣ Q9863
	<i>West East</i>	
	<i>Declarer</i>	
	♠ AQT876 ♥ 763 ♦ 5 ♣ AKT	

*E-W Vulnerable*

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

N-S reached their Spade game one baby step at a time and West led the ♥K. Seeing the danger of Heart ruffs in Dummy, East overtook with his Ace and smartly shifted to a trump. That was sensible defense, now what would be sensible Declarer play?

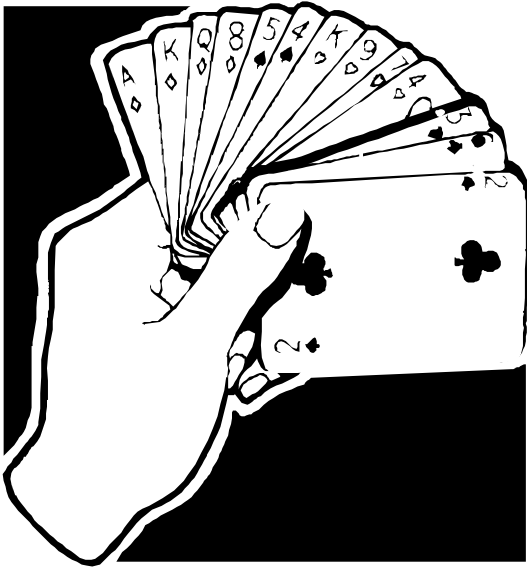
It may seem routine to finesse the Spade, but that would be fatal. West wins his King and returns another trump. Oops! Now Declarer has only one Heart ruff in Dummy and is down

one! The correct play is easy enough if Declarer counts his tricks. He has three side-suit winners, and if he can get *two* Heart ruffs in Dummy, then he can make do with just five trump tricks in his own hand. Ten easy tricks, but only if Declarer makes certain of both ruffs by hopping up with the ♠A at Trick 2. The full line of play is: ♥A; ♠A; Heart ruff; ♦A; Diamond ruff; Heart ruff; Diamond ruff; then play on trumps.

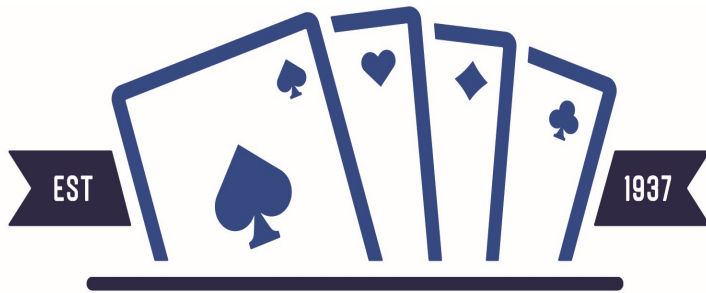
As Declarer was engineering those Heart ruffs he did well to return to hand with Diamond ruffs. If he had attempted to use the ♣A and ♣K as his entries then he'd have got a nasty shock when West ruffed the second Club for down one.

How about an opening trump lead? Does that set 4♠? Actually, no! Declarer wins and plays a Heart. If East wins that trick he cannot play another trump, and Dummy gets the two ruffs ... and if West wins he can lead a trump to stop the second ruff, but only at the expense of his natural trump trick. A Club opening lead is no better for the defense because, although the defense is able to arrange a Club ruff, that comes at the expense of their natural Club trick.





**Please see schedules on page 1**



**AMERICAN CONTRACT  
BRIDGE LEAGUE**

— DEALING INFINITE POSSIBILITIES —