

Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 24 Number 1 – January, 2022



January 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(no game on 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 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 12/6/2021 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



1	4,410.09	Steve Babin
2	3,703.36	JoAnn Schroeder
3	3,502.13	Zack Freehill
4	3,343.55	Eunice Patton
5	3,041.74	Cindy Moore
6	2,482.07	Mike Tomlianovich
7	2,358.24	Ann Schuyler
8	2,273.90	Lori Moore
9	1,827.88	Ron Emmett
10	1,593.94	Joyce Clay
11	1,565.67	Jeff Furler
12	1,272.27	Jeanne Strand
13	1,192.80	Steve Wulfers
14	1,161.80	Ivey Weaver
15	839.41	Dave Freehill
16	817.35	Barbara Neuges
17	775.52	Ray Dostal
18	755.09	Sallie Boge
19	639.44	Fred Spitzzeri
20	588.08	Mary Cralley
21	508.23	Larry Ziegler
22	499.18	John Cralley
23	419.73	Gene Byers
24	372.77	Chris Zogg
25	351.59	Marilyn Byers

Other players:

13,228.37	Chris Benson-LeRoy
5,856.99	Larry Matheny-Colorado
5,755.13	Ron Sholes-Springfield
5,534.65	John Seng-Champaign
4,465.37	Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
3,693.97	Carole Sholes-Springfield
3,525.72	Mary Allen-Peoria
3,513.37	Terry Goodykoontz
2,689.15	Pat Carrington-Champaign
2,678.84	Georgia Heth-Morton
2,654.93	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
2,595.02	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
2,437.11	John Maloney-Champaign
2,288.37	Chuck Young-Peoria
2,025.37	Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
1,750.53	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
1,370.66	Dan Bunde-Urbana
1,319.72	Wes Seitz-Champaign
1,100.50	Bill Strauss-Urbana
865.27	Darryl Bremner-Canton
819.93	Bill Thompson-Ft Myers,FL
801.84	Carole Miller-Champaign
719.10	Melda Richardson-California
616.66	Lane O'Connor-Naperville
577.94	Linda Odette-Palisade,CO
556.50	Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
525.52	John Ford-Harvard,MA
504.23	Connie Tucker-Champaign
504.08	Ron Sinn-Peoria





IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

with Larry Matheny



#1

The Roman Keycard convention is used to ask partner how many keycards (aces plus the king of the agreed trump suit) he holds. A useful feature of the convention is the ability to ask about the trump queen. See if you could have stayed out of this slam.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand ♠A854
 #54 ♥AJ6
 Dir W ♦K4
 Vul N-S ♣AQJ9

♠QJ10	□	♠9
♥109		♥87543
♦A9632		♦875
♣874		♣6532
		♠K7632
		♥KQ2
		♦QJ10
		♣K10

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT*
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♠	All Pass	

*Roman Keycard

BIDDING: North's leap to 4♠ showed 19+ points in support of spades. South knew they were in the slam zone and bid 4NT to ask about keycards. The 5♣ response showed 0-3 so South knew they were missing one keycard. His 5♦ bid asked about the queen of spades and North's return to the spade suit denied it. Knowing they were off a keycard and the trump queen, South gave up on slam.

PLAY: West led the diamond ace and waited on his spade trick. Many of the pairs reached the slam and felt very unlucky. It's true the slam would have succeeded if the outstanding trumps had divided 2-2, but that only occurs 40% of the time which makes it a bad proposition. At matchpoint scoring (pairs), you should not push for close games or slams. Take your plus scores.


This convention is very helpful but can also be dangerous. Be sure to research it and discuss with your partner before adding it to your card.

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#2

When declaring it is essential to keep good communications between your hand and dummy. This is particularly true when entries are scarce. Here is a good example.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #55	♠ 1093				
Dlr S	♥ A85				
Vul N-S	♦ KQ76				
	♣ 653				
		West	North	East	South
♠ KQJ842					1♥
♥ J1085		1♣	2♥	Pass	3
♦ K98		Pass	3♦	Pass	4♥
		All Pass			
	♠ A5				
	♥ KQ6432				
	♦ A3				
	♣ Q102				

BIDDING: After receiving a raise from his partner, South with extra values made a game try by asking for help in the club suit. North's 3♦ bid denied help in clubs but indicated a good raise with diamond cards. With a weaker raise, North would have signed off in 3♥. South then bid the game.

PLAY: West led the king of spades won by South. Declarer saw that he could discard his spade loser on a diamond honor so that left him with only three probable club losers as long as the hearts behaved. He next played the heart king and received the bad news that he was going to lose a heart trick. To succeed, he must now hold his clubs losers to two. He had to find the top two club honors split as well as the jack in the East hand. It also meant leading toward his hand twice. He had to get rid of his spade loser before leading clubs so he played the top three diamonds discarding the spade. He then led a club to his ten. West won with the king and played another high spade. Declarer trumped and led the queen and another heart to get to dummy. He then led a second club and made the hand when East rose with the ace.


Note you will go down if you first lead a heart to the ace. That entry must be saved for later in the hand.

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#3

A careful declarer will formulate a plan before playing to the first trick. However, that plan may have to be modified as the hand develops. Take a look at this example.

Scoring: IMPs

Hand	♣42					
#56	♥Q1084					
Dlr S	♦A6					
Vul E-W	♣K10953					
♠1086		♠K973	West	North	East	South
♥K763		♥AJ5				1NT
♦QJ1097		♦84	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♣
♣4		♣J876	Pass	3NT	All Pass	
	♠AQJ5					
	♥92					
	♦K532					
	♣AQ2					

BIDDING: South had a standard 1NT opener and North used Stayman to look for a possible heart fit. South showed four spades but denied holding four hearts, so North leaped to game on the basis of his nine high card points and five-card club suit.

PLAY: West led the queen of diamonds and South stopped to count his tricks. This was a team game so overtricks were not a concern. He could count one spade, two diamonds, and very likely five clubs with the spade suit offering a source for the extra trick. There were few entries to dummy so declarer won the first trick in his hand. He then played the ace and queen of clubs but stopped when West discarded a heart on the second round. Now South only had four club tricks so he now needed three spade tricks. To finesse twice in spades meant creating another entry to dummy so declarer overtook the club queen with the king to lead a low spade toward his hand. He won the trick with the spade jack and next led a club to dummy's ten. East won the jack but declarer now had nine tricks. The ace of diamonds was an entry back to dummy to cash the last two clubs and then repeat the spade finesse.

Note the importance of keeping the diamond ace in dummy to be used as a later entry. Many contracts are lost due to hasty play at trick one.

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#4

There are many conventions available to you and your partners. Some are helpful but some get people into trouble when they haven't thoroughly researched them. Here is an example of one that can be useful.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #57	♠643					
Dlr S	♥K3					
Vul N-S	♦AQ73					
	♣KJ98					
♠AKJ1092		♠87	West	North	East	South
♥QJ4		♥107652				1NT
♦102		♦8654	2♠	3NT	Pass	4♣
♣103		♣72	Pass	5♣	All Pass	
	♠Q5					
	♥A98					
	♦KJ9					
	♣AQ654					

BIDDING: South had a standard 1NT opener and West couldn't resist bidding his great spade suit. This North-South pair uses the Lebensohl convention which has several nice features. One of these is North's jump to 3NT told his partner that he had the values for game, but did NOT have a spade stopper. With a spade honor, North would have first bid 2NT relaying South to 3C and then bid 3NT. South knew it was time to start scrambling so he bid his lowest suit. This found North with great support so they quickly ended up in 5♣ rather than a doomed 3NT.

PLAY: West took the top two spade tricks and South claimed the rest. Without this convention, what would you bid with the North hand? If you double 2♠, you will only earn +300 or +500 compared to the +600 for making a vulnerable game. Once again, vulnerability is an important factor. Of course you have noticed that if West had resisted the urge to overcall, he would have undoubtedly captured the first six tricks defending 3NT.

Like most conventions, there is much to learn about Lebensohl before you and your partner agree to use it.



Bloomington-Normal 70% club Year 2021 only

2021/12/10	74.39%	Lane O'Connor & Steve Wulfers
2021/11/10	70.14%	Chris Benson & Steve Babin
2021/11/10	76.25%	Donna Uhlenhop & Jane Franklin(Wed aft limited 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(Wed aft limited pairs)
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



#057 – THE FORCING GAME

	♠ K52 ♥ A76 ♦ A54 ♣ Q872	
	<i>North</i>	
♠ AT98 ♥ 9832 ♦ KQJ3 ♣ 6	<i>West East</i>	♠ 6 ♥ J54 ♦ T9876 ♣ A943
	<i>Declarer</i>	
	♠ QJ743 ♥ KQT ♦ 2 ♣ KJT5	

None Vulnerable

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

North might well have rebid 1NT (showing 12-14) but, being a polite sort of fellow, he supported Partner's Spades. Either way, South was destined to declare 4♠, and the fate of that contract rested on West's opening lead. What would be your choice?

When the hand was played in real life, West led a Club and got the immediate gratification of a Club ruff at Trick 2. West

shifted to the ♦K, won in Dummy, followed by a trump to the Queen and South's Ace. West persisted with Diamonds, but Declarer ruffed that, drew the remaining trumps, and had nothing left but winners. Making 10 tricks.

West was on the wrong track when he pursued the Club ruff, that served only to weaken his trump holding while establishing Club winners for Declarer. Thanks to those good intermediate cards West had two trump tricks even without scoring a ruff. He would have done better to attack Diamonds immediately. Look what happens. Declarer wins the opening Diamond lead, loses a trick to the ♠A, ruffs the Diamond continuation, and then gets the bad news about the 4-1 trump split. Declarer must still lose a trick to the ♣A and now another Diamond is ruinous and 4♠ goes down. The moral to this story is: *When you have a powerful trump holding it usually doesn't pay to go after ruffs. Better to attack with the defense's strong suit, forcing Declarer to weaken his own trumps and (hopefully) to lose control.*



#058 – A SELF-INFLICTED WOUND

	♠ Q97654 ♥ A7 ♦ 8 ♣ AK62	
♠ KT32 ♥ 6 ♦ KQJ95 ♣ T75	<i>North</i>	♠ AJ ♥ K432 ♦ T7432 ♣ QJ
	<i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	
	♠ 8 ♥ QJT985 ♦ A6 ♣ 9843	

E-W Vulnerable

South West North East
2♥ Pass 4♥ All Pass

In last week's Bridge Bite, the defense prevailed by forcing Declarer to ruff repeatedly, causing him to lose trump control in the process. This week's Declarer suffered a similar fate but in this case he had no excuse, his defeat was entirely self-inflicted.

Against 4♥, West led the ♦K, won by Declarer's Ace. Assuming that Clubs were breaking 3-2, and by taking a Diamond ruff in Dummy, Declarer could count 10 tricks (5

trump winners, ♦A and a Diamond ruff, and 3 Clubs). The only losers would be a Spade, the ♥K, and a Club.

A pretty simple hand, eh? Well, not exactly! Declarer won the Diamond opening lead, ruffed a Diamond in Dummy, and cashed the ♥A. Declarer needed to get back to hand in order to draw trumps, and that would have to be done with a ruff. So he lost a Spade, ruffed the Diamond return, and played the ♥Q, driving out East's King. With West showing out of Hearts on the second round, and with East returning yet another Diamond, Declarer's goose was cooked. He could ruff the Diamond and draw East's remaining trumps, but then would be out of trumps himself. When he later lost the third round of Clubs, the defense would cash a Spade for down one.

Where did Declarer go wrong? At Trick 2 he should have ruffed the Diamond with Dummy's Ace! Now he can play a low Heart from the board, overtaking in hand if East plays low. This avoids the need for one of those ruffs, trump control is thereby retained, and 10 tricks roll home.



#059 – DUCK A LA GLYNDA

	♠ T62 ♥ 75 ♦ T7 ♣ AJT632	
♠ 97 ♥ A943 ♦ J852 ♣ Q98	<i>North</i> <i>West Glynda</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ QJ83 ♥ T862 ♦ Q63 ♣ K4
	♠ AK54 ♥ KQJ ♦ AK94 ♣ 75	

Don't be fooled by that title, what follows is not a recipe, it is a bridge column.

Both Vulnerable

	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
	2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
	Pass	Pass		

This was played at a local club duplicate, a form of the game where each deal is played by many different pairs.

At every table the contract was 3NT played by South. And at almost every table the play went much the same way. West led a low Heart, won by Declarer. It was clear to Declarer that

he would not have enough tricks unless Dummy's Clubs could be established, so at Trick 2 he finessed the ♣J, losing to East's King. The defense continued Hearts and when Declarer got back in he took a deep breath and tried a second Club finesse. When that worked Declarer had no fewer than 11 tricks.

But, at one table, East (we'll refer to her as Glynda because that happened to be her name) found a rather fine play. When Declarer finessed the Clubs at Trick 2 she brazenly ducked her doubleton King! Well done, now the Club suit was dead as poultry (due to Dummy's shortage of entries), and was worth only two tricks instead of five. Declarer's last resort was to play on Spades, hoping that the suit was 3-3, but that did not work so there were just eight tricks, with no chance of a ninth. Down one! As husband West was gleefully writing +100 on his scorecard, he explained to Glynda "If I don't hold on to my Clubs when the Spades are played, Declarer makes his contract." "Quite so, my dear, nicely defended," replied Glynda.



#060 – A JOY TO BEHOLD

	♠ KT4 ♥ QJ4 ♦ 8432 ♣ 975	
♠ J87 ♥ T3 ♦ KQT6 ♣ QT82	North West East Declarer	♠ Q965 ♥ 9765 ♦ 75 ♣ KJ3
	♠ A32 ♥ AK82 ♦ AJ9 ♣ A64	

N-S Vulnerable

	South	West	North	East
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass	
	Pass	Pass		

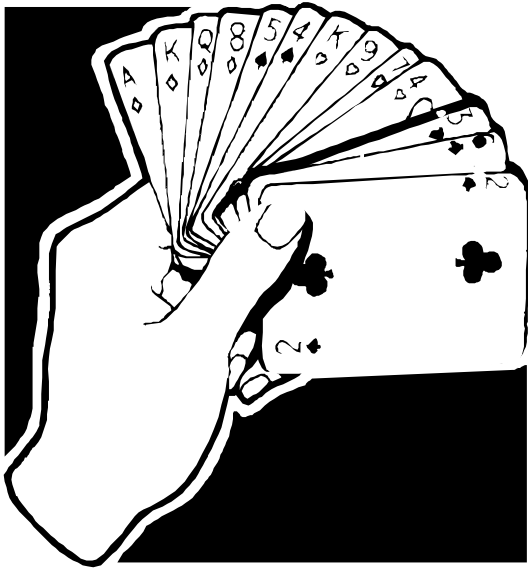
This deal was played in a team-of-four game. At both tables South opened 2NT, showing a balanced hand and 20-21 HCP, and North raised to game. West's opening lead was the ♦K. Do you see how to make 9 tricks?

Clue: There is some trickery involved!

At the first table, Declarer counted eight top tricks and the only prospect for a ninth was to score a second Diamond. One possibility was to let the ♦K win the first trick, in the hope that West would be lured into continuing Diamonds, allowing Declarer's Jack to score (the so-called Bath Coup). But that was unlikely to work, as West (who had not been born the day before) would surely shift at Trick 2, presumably to a Club. Another chance for the ninth trick was to establish a second Diamond winner by force, eventually setting up Dummy's Eight. So, Declarer took the ♦A on the first trick and returned the ♦J, won by West's Queen. However, that line of play was also doomed to failure when West promptly shifted to a Club and the defense got their five tricks before Declarer could rustle up his nine tricks. Down one.

At the other table, West also led the ♦K, but this time Declarer found a rather surprising play. She smoothly dropped the Jack! Playing Declarer to have started with doubleton AJ, West confidently led a low Diamond to East's presumed Nine. It was a joy to behold the look of astonishment on West's face when it was Declarer who produced the Nine and claimed her nine tricks.





Please see schedules on page 1



**AMERICAN CONTRACT
BRIDGE LEAGUE**

— DEALING INFINITE POSSIBILITIES —