

Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 24 Number 3 – March, 2022



March 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 – Mike's Bridge Room – lower level of 1714 Tompkins Dr, Normal

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 2/6/2022 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



- 1 4,436.56 Steve Babin
- 2 3,747.77 JoAnn Schroeder
- 3 3,521.28 Zack Freehill
- 4 3,355.96 Eunice Patton
- 5 3,065.73 Cindy Moore
- 6 2,503.85 Mike Tomlianovich
- 7 2,364.35 Ann Schuyler
- 8 2,295.67 Lori Moore
- 9 1,834.71 Ron Emmett
- 10 1,634.69 Joyce Clay
- 11 1,577.58 Jeff Furler
- 12 1,272.27 Jeanne Strand
- 13 1,214.04 Steve Wulfers
- 14 1,161.80 Ivey Weaver
- 15 840.72 Dave Freehill
- 16 820.40 Barbara Neuges
- 17 791.26 Ray Dostal
- 18 772.51 Sallie Boge
- 19 656.71 Fred Spitzzeri
- 20 592.26 Mary Cralley
- 21 525.28 Larry Ziegler
- 22 502.80 John Cralley
- 23 425.25 Gene Byers
- 24 384.60 Chris Zogg
- 25 357.67 Marilyn Byers

Other players:

- 13,272.60 Chris Benson-LeRoy
- 5,892.79 Larry Matheny-Colorado
- 5,794.00 Ron Sholes-Springfield
- 5,542.87 John Seng-Champaign
- 4,508.92 Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
- 3,721.83 Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 3,548.88 Mary Allen-Peoria
- 3,542.70 Terry Goodykoontz
- 2,708.97 Georgia Heth-Morton
- 2,689.15 Pat Carrington-Champaign
- 2,654.93 Margaret Hansell-Champaign
- 2,622.44 Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
- 2,439.19 John Maloney-Champaign
- 2,318.87 Chuck Young-Peoria
- 2,029.65 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
- 1,772.13 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
- 1,373.91 Dan Bunde-Urbana
- 1,340.79 Wes Seitz-Champaign
- 1,103.75 Bill Strauss-Urbana
- 872.96 Darryl Bremner-Canton
- 844.64 Bill Thompson-Ft Myers,FL
- 801.84 Carole Miller-Champaign
- 719.94 Melda Richardson-California
- 620.66 Lane O'Connor-Naperville
- 578.21 Linda Odette-Palisade,CO
- 560.59 Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
- 538.19 John Ford-Harvard,MA
- 517.28 Connie Tucker-Champaign
- 516.79 Ron Sinn-Peoria





IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

with Larry Matheny



#1

When defending it is essential to stop and think about the entire hand rather than automatically returning your partner's suit. Take a look at this example.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand ♣J2
 #5 ♥1086
 Dir E ♦A85
 Vul N-S ♣109643

♠K1087
 ♥KJ54
 ♦72
 ♣Q52



♠AQ53
 ♥972
 ♦QJ93
 ♣87

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1NT
All Pass			

♠964
 ♥AQ3
 ♦K1064
 ♣AKJ

BIDDING: South held a standard 1NT opener and that closed the auction.

PLAY: West led his fourth best spade and East won the queen. The play of the queen was to discover if he held a second entry to his hand. Realizing four or five spade tricks would not defeat the contract, East shifted to the heart seven. The seven was an attitude card that said, "don't return this suit". If he had instead led the deuce, he would be showing a higher honor and would welcome a return. South played low on the heart and West won the jack. West continued with a second spade to East's ace. Now a second heart from East was won by declarer with the ace. South then played the ace, king, and jack of clubs with West winning the third round. West now cashed his last two spades and two hearts to beat the contract two tricks.


Note if East had routinely returned a spade at trick two, declarer would succeed with seven tricks.

Copyright ©2007 Larry Matheny.

#2

A common mistake when declaring or defending a hand is the failure to remember the auction. There is often a lot of information available if you just stop and reflect. This hand is typical.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #6	♠65					
Dlr N	♥KJ3					
Vul N-S	♦963					
	♣A10942					
♠109873		♠AKQ2	West	North	East	South
♥Q96		♥8		Pass	Pass	1♥
♦KJ7		♦Q10852	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
♣63		♣875	Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
	♠J4		All Pass			
	♥A107542					
	♦A4					
	♣KQJ					

BIDDING: After receiving a raise from partner, South's hand was good enough for a game try of 3 . North's hand was certainly worth bidding game but he cue bid the club ace in case South was probing for slam. South then signed off in game.


PLAY: West led the ten of spades won by East with the queen. East cashed another top spade and then switched to a low diamond. Declarer won the ace and had to decide how to play the trump suit. With no other information, declarer would play the top two honors but he stopped to recall the auction. East has passed at his first opportunity and had shown up with the top three spade honors. And, South realized if West held the top three diamond honors he would have led one. This marked East with a diamond honor, probably the queen. Armed with this information, declarer played the heart ace followed by a low heart to the jack. He then was able to draw the last trump and make eleven tricks by discarding his diamond loser on the long club suit.

Note that East made it easy for declarer to place the high cards. A better play would be to win the first spade with the ace and then play the queen in an attempt to convince declarer the king was in the West hand.

#3

It's an unstated rule that if you are going to bid aggressively, you better be a good declarer. That is, of course, if you want to keep your partner. See if you would have brought this contract home.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #7	♠KJ9874				
Dlr	S				
Vul	N-S				
	♣7				
		West	North	East	South
♠6		♠105			2NT
♥K1076		♥Q53	Pass	3♥*	Pass
♦Q82		♦754	Pass	5♥	Pass
♣109854		♣QJ632			6♣
		All Pass			
	♠AQ32				
	♥982				
	♦AK93				
	♣AK				

*Jacoby Transfer

BIDDING: After hearing his partner's opening bid of 2NT, North thought that slam was possible if South had a great spade fit. This partnership uses both Jacoby and Texas transfer bids, so South decided to transfer with 3♥ and then raise his partner to 4♣ to show a 6+ card suit with invitational slam values. With no slam interest, he would just transfer to 4♣ and pass. When South jumped to 4♣ showing a great hand and four card support, North cooperated by cue bidding the ace of hearts. This was all the encouragement South needed to bid the slam.

PLAY: After West's bold lead of a low heart, declarer could count only eleven tricks. It was clear the extra trick would have to come from the diamond suit. He could finesse East for the queen but he saw a slightly better play. After winning the heart ace and drawing trumps, he played the ace and king of diamonds hoping the queen would drop. Failing at that, he next played his two club honors discarding dummy's last diamond. South then ruffed a diamond in dummy and was delighted to see the queen appear. He then entered his hand with a spade to discard one of dummy's low hearts on the good diamond. He conceded a heart and had his twelve tricks.

Note this line of play in the diamond suit loses only to QXXX or longer in the East hand. Also, note that without an opening heart lead, declarer would have an easy play for the slam by taking the diamond finesse. When it lost, he could discard dummy's low hearts on the club king and the fourth diamond. The opening lead dictated the correct play in the diamond suit.

Copyright ©2007 Larry Matheny.

#4

The old saying goes, "The five level belongs to the opponents", and while that is usually true, sometimes it pays to be up there yourself. Here is an example from a recent tournament.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #8	♠105					
Dlr N	♥K72					
Vul N-S	♦A8					
	♣1087543					
♠J963		♠AQ874	West	North	East	South
♥J		♥109		Pass	1♣	4♥
♦QJ109632		♦K54				
♣K		♣QJ6	4♣	5♥	All Pass	
	♠K2					
	♥AQ86543					
	♦7					
	♣A92					

BIDDING: After East opened the bidding, I leaped to 4♥ in an attempt to buy the contract. However, West continued on to 4♣ and my partner found a good raise to 5♥.

PLAY: West led the queen of diamonds that I won in dummy. I expected the spade ace to be on my right but I still had two club losers. One solution was an elimination play. At trick two I led a spade from dummy and East hopped up with the ace. As I expected, he continued with a second diamond that I ruffed. Next I drew two round of trumps followed by the spade king. With spades and diamonds eliminated, I played a low club from my hand. West won the king and had no choice but to play a diamond or a spade allowing me to ruff in dummy and discard my losing club. Making five was a very good result.

It was important to avoid ruffing the diamond until the spade was played because an astute defender in the East chair may have spotted the pending club end-play and exited with a club after winning the spade ace. Also note that it would not help West to discard the club king on the second trump to avoid the end play. I still had an entry to dummy to allow me to lead the ten of clubs to finesse East. And, if the outstanding clubs were 2-2, I would only have one club loser. And finally, if either opponent held the KQJ of clubs, I was going down. This was a fun hand.

Copyright ©2007 Larry Matheny.



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

#065 – NICE TRY!



♠ A9752
♥ 985
♦ A97
♣ 64

♠ KJ	<i>North</i>	♠ QT86
♥ AKT7	<i>West</i>	♥ J64
♦ K84	<i>East</i>	♦ JT653
♣ T753	<i>Declarer</i>	♣ 8

♠ 43
♥ Q32
♦ Q2
♣ AKQJ93

None Vulnerable

<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
1♣	1♥	1♠	2♥
3♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

West cashes the ♥A and gets the discouraging Four from East. West shifts to a trump, after which things look bleak! From the bidding and the play to the first trick it appears that West has overcalled with ♥AKxx. How do you avoid losing five tricks?

The only chance is an end-play against West. If you can force him to play a second round of Hearts or to lead the first round of Diamonds, then one of your losers will disappear.

The best hope is that West has the doubleton Spade King, in which case you can draw trumps, play a Spade to the Ace, and exit a Spade. West is forced to win the trick with his ♠K, and must now play one of the red suits. Bingo, that's 9 tricks!

That was well done, but if Zia had been sitting West he would have dumped the ♠K on the first round of Spades! No problem! Your clever counter would be to duck that trick (remember, the idea is to keep East off lead) and to win the Spade return with Dummy's Ace. Now you ruff a Spade and, when Zia shows out, you can count his original distribution as 2=4=3=4. So you cash your last trump and Zia is squeezed! He has these unpleasant choices:

- If he comes down to ♥Kx ♦Kx, you play ♦A and out a Diamond, end-playing him in Hearts.
- If he comes down to ♥K ♦Kxx, you throw him in with a Heart and make a surprising overtrick!
- If he comes down to ♥Kxx ♦K, you can cash two Diamonds.

Good defense, Zia, but not quite good enough!



#066 – A FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE

	♠ T97 ♥ 96 ♦ KJ654 ♣ AJT	
♠ Q854 ♥ KT85 ♦ 7 ♣ 8532	North West East Declarer	♠ J32 ♥ A72 ♦ AT98 ♣ 964
	♠ AK6 ♥ QJ43 ♦ Q32 ♣ KQ7	

Both Vulnerable

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

Which of West's 4-card suits would you lead against 3NT? As North did not bother with Stayman, there would be a tendency to lead a major in this situation. So, let us assume that West leads his 4th best Heart, if only because it's the stronger suit.

East's ♥A won the opening lead, the Heart Seven was returned to Declarer's Queen and West's King, and the third round of the suit knocked out Declarer's Heart stopper, setting up a third Heart winner for the defense. Next Declarer played on Diamonds. East won the Ace and, being out of Hearts, shifted to a Spade, won by Declarer. Thanks to the 4-1 Diamond break there was still a Diamond to be lost, but eventually Declarer was able to rustle up his 9th trick in the suit. Poor West never did score that third Heart trick, and the defense had to make do with two Hearts and two Diamonds.

West slipped up when he won the second round of Hearts. With no quick entry, West must keep the Heart suit as the line of communication between the E-W hands. So West must duck the second trick, letting Declarer have her Heart trick early and leaving East in a position to lead Hearts again when he gets in with the ♦A. Now the defense scores three Heart tricks and two Diamonds, and that's down one.

The defense did not shine here, and had to do everything just wrong to let 3NT make. A Club or a Spade opening lead would beat the contract ... as would a Heart lead and a (non-obvious) Spade shift by East at Trick 2 ... or the aforementioned Heart lead and duck of the second round of Hearts.



#067 – A FREE SHOT

	♠ A42 ♥ 865 ♦ 9643 ♣ T43	
♠ QJ7 ♥ KQJ97 ♦ 875 ♣ 85	North West East Declarer	♠ T985 ♥ AT432 ♦ K2 ♣ KJ
	♠ K63 ♥ ♦ AQJT ♣ AQ9762	

None Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♣	1♥	Pass	4♥
5♣	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Against 5♣ doubled, West leads a Heart, ruffed by Declarer's Club Two. Over to the ♠A, Club finesse, cash the ♠A, back to Dummy's ♠T, Diamond finesse. 12 tricks! Was that a foolish Double or what?

It's always embarrassing when you double them and they make an overtrick. But East missed the chance for a delicious deception! When Declarer leads a trump from

Dummy at Trick 3, East might casually play the King! Now look at the hand from Declarer's point of view. East "obviously" started with the singleton ♣K ... the bad news is that there is a trump loser to West's ♣J85 ... the good news is that by now playing low towards Dummy's ♠T (instead of cashing the ♠Q) Declarer can force a second entry to the board for the Diamond finesse.

So, Declarer tries the aforementioned, but Dummy's ♠T is taken by East's Jack! That play of the ♠K has swindled a trump trick for the defense. And it has also swindled Declarer out of an entry to the board. Now the Diamond finesse cannot be taken and it's down one instead of making with an overtrick!

East's falsecard was almost a free shot. East may not have foreseen the havoc it would wreak, he just needed to know that unless West had the singleton ♠A his play would not cost, and that one way or another it might gain. As for South, he could have saved the day. He had ruffed the opening Heart lead with the trump nearest to his left thumb, and unfortunately for him that was the Two. If he had saved that valuable Two for later and splurged out with the Six or Seven, he would still have a trump entry to the board for the Diamond finesse. But who would think of that at Trick 1?



#068 – A STRANGE LEAD

	♠ JT3 ♥ 743 ♦ J86 ♣ AK87	
♠ 982 ♥ KQJT952 ♦ ♣ 963	<i>North</i>	♠ A ♥ A6 ♦ T9743 ♣ QJT42
	<i>West</i> <i>East</i>	
	<i>Declarer</i>	
	♠ KQ7654 ♥ 8 ♦ AKQ52 ♣ 5	

Both Vulnerable

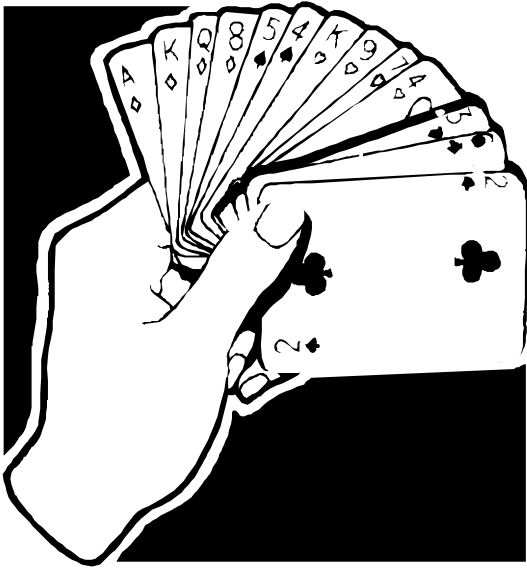
<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
1♠	3♥	3♠	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

West's 3♥ jump overcall showed long Hearts and not much else (preemptive, in other words), and South eventually bought the contract in 4♠. Put yourself in the West seat. You'd love to get a Diamond ruff (or two) but, alas, you are on opening lead. Any thoughts?

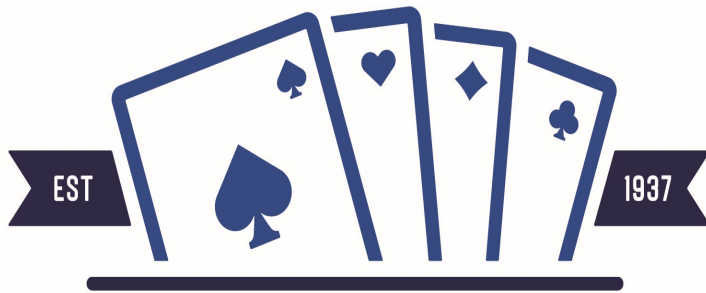
This deal was played in a team game and at one table West routinely led the ♥K. Declarer ruffed the second Heart and played a trump to East's Ace. A Diamond was returned for West to ruff, briefly raising the hopes of E-W. But that was all they got, and Declarer had 10 tricks. In the post mortem West stated the obvious by pointing out that East needed to overtake the King with his ♥A at Trick 1 and shoot back a Diamond, getting the defense *two* ruffs and setting the contract.

At the other table, West was made of smarter stuff. At Trick 1 she led the Heart *Two!* Unless leading "top of a sequence" it is customary to lead 4th best from a long suit (some prefer "3rd or 5th"), so that Heart Two was distinctly fishy-looking, considering that West's bidding had announced 6 or 7 Hearts. What was West trying to say by her strange lead? She clearly wanted a shift, probably for a ruff. East concluded that Diamonds were more promising than Clubs, all the more so as, if West was out of Clubs, then East had natural Club tricks coming his way. So back came a Diamond for the first of two ruffs. Down one!





Please see schedules on page 1



**AMERICAN CONTRACT
BRIDGE LEAGUE**

— DEALING INFINITE POSSIBILITIES —