

# Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 24 Number 4 – April, 2022



## April 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 – 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 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 3/6/2022 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only  
paid up ACBL members only



- 1 4,453.73 Steve Babin
- 2 3,764.00 JoAnn Schroeder
- 3 3,528.24 Zach Freehill
- 4 3,360.92 Eunice Patton
- 5 3,089.66 Cindy Moore
- 6 2,513.37 Mike Tomlianovich
- 7 2,368.61 Ann Schuyler
- 8 2,311.95 Lori Moore
- 9 1,841.08 Ron Emmett
- 10 1,652.55 Joyce Clay
- 11 1,577.81 Jeff Furler
- 12 1,272.27 Jeanne Strand
- 13 1,220.14 Steve Wulfers
- 14 1,161.80 Ivey Weaver
- 15 840.72 Dave Freehill
- 16 825.93 Barbara Neuges
- 17 799.57 Ray Dostal
- 18 780.28 Sallie Boge
- 19 661.52 Fred Spitzzeri
- 20 593.22 Mary Cralley
- 21 530.77 Larry Ziegler
- 22 503.12 John Cralley
- 23 428.16 Gene Byers
- 24 395.38 Chris Zogg
- 25 360.42 Marilyn Byers

## Other players:

- 13,294.22 Chris Benson-LeRoy
- 5,926.76 Larry Matheny-Colorado
- 5,816.32 Ron Sholes-Springfield
- 5,545.38 John Seng-Champaign
- 4,522.67 Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
- 3,781.87 Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 3,565.20 Mary Allen-Peoria
- 3,564.75 Terry Goodykoontz
- 2,711.00 Georgia Heth-Morton
- 2,689.15 Pat Carrington-Champaign
- 2,654.93 Margaret Hansell-Champaign
- 2,631.41 Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
- 2,439.19 John Maloney-Champaign
- 2,328.93 Chuck Young-Peoria
- 2,032.25 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
- 1,782.64 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
- 1,373.91 Dan Bunde-Urbana
- 1,346.92 Wes Seitz-Champaign
- 1,104.07 Bill Strauss-Urbana
- 876.29 Darryl Bremner-Canton
- 855.52 Bill Thompson-Ft Myers,FL
- 801.84 Carole Miller-Champaign
- 733.63 Melda Richardson-California
- 624.15 Lane O'Connor-Naperville
- 578.21 Linda Odette-Palisade,CO
- 565.63 Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
- 540.14 John Ford-Harvard,MA
- 524.25 Connie Tucker-Champaign
- 522.27 Ron Sinn-Peoria





# IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

with Larry Matheny



#1

It's often a good idea for declarer to immediately draw trumps but sometimes that has to wait. Here is a good example.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #9 ♠K10865  
 Dlr N ♥J7  
 Vul E-W ♦AK5  
 ♣AQ4

♠AQJ42  
 ♥AK1092  
 ♦  
 ♣K109



♠97  
 ♥653  
 ♦J9732  
 ♣J82

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	Pass
2♥	DBL	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

♠3  
 ♥Q84  
 ♦Q10864  
 ♣7653

**BIDDING:** My partner in the North chair opened 1♠ but holding only four hcp I passed. With so many spades it was dangerous for West to enter the bidding but he didn't want the auction to die at the one level. My partner held extra values with support for the other two suits so he doubled asking me to bid. My 3♦ bid closed the auction.

**PLAY:** West played the top two heart honors followed by a third round. I discarded a club from dummy and won with the queen in my hand. It seemed likely that most of the outstanding high cards would be in the West hand so I led a spade toward dummy. West rose with the ace and exited with another spade. I won the king in dummy discarding a club from my hand. Next I ruffed a spade in my hand as East discarded a club. This meant West had started with ten major suit cards and East was very likely to hold a lot of trumps. I then led a club to dummy's queen followed by the ace. I then led another spade and East, now down to nothing but trumps, played one in front of me. I over trumped and ruffed my last club with dummy's ace as East helplessly under-ruffed again. I then played the king of diamonds and watched West show out. My last two cards were the Q10 of diamonds and East was finished. He started with five trumps and never scored a trick. Making four earned all of the matchpoints. It's clear that leading trumps early would have been a bad idea.

Also note that perhaps West would have been better off passing 1♠.

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## #2

As declarer it is important to be able to place the opponents' high cards. The bidding and the play of the hand will often provide the information you need. Here is a good example.

Scoring: IMPs (team)

Hand #10	♠9752					
Dlr N	♥AKQJ					
Vul E-W	♦J104					
	♣42					
♠A		♠J1086	West	North	East	South
♥1076		♥985		Pass	Pass	Pass
♦853		♦AQ2	1♣	DBL	1NT	2♠
♣AQJ965		♣K87	All Pass			
	♠KQ43					
	♥432					
	♦K976					
	♣103					

**BIDDING:** This was a routine auction with both sides bidding strongly in their attempt to buy the contract. Perhaps East should have taken another call but instead decided to defend.

**PLAY:** West made an aggressive lead of the club ace. After receiving encouragement from his partner, West continued with a second club. After winning the king, East shifted to a low heart. With two clubs lost and at least one diamond to lose, declarer had to keep his trump losers to two. Before tackling trumps, declarer decided to find out more about the hand by leading the diamond jack from dummy. East covered with the queen and South won the king. It was now clear that West must hold the spade ace for his opening bid. Since this was a team game with overtricks of little value, South next played a low spade from his hand. While this may seem unusual, the only time declarer will lose three spade tricks is when the suit divides 4-1 (or an unlikely 5-0). Since West was marked with the ace, a low spade from hand protected against the ace being singleton.


South ended up losing only five tricks to score +110. Note that E-W would be down one in 3♣ for -100. Of course, West could have passed the hand out for an even better result.

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### #3

It's no secret that different hands create different auctions so you need a variety of bidding tools. For example, it is not essential to use Blackwood for all slams. In fact, it can get you into trouble. Here is a typical example.

Scoring: Matchpoints (pairs)

<b>Hand #11</b>	♠ A104				
<b>Dlr N</b>	♥ Q63				
<b>Vul E-</b>	♦ KJ85				
<b>W</b>	♣ KJ6				
		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
♠ J32			1♣	Pass	1♠
♥ AK75		Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦*
♦ 1032		Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
♣ 1074		Pass	4♠	All Pass	
	♠ KQ9865				
	♥ J2				
	♦ AQ				
	♣ AQ9				

\*New Minor Forcing

**BIDDING:** After North rebid 1NT, South used the New Minor Forcing convention to find out about spade support. North's jump to 3♠ showed three card support and a maximum hand. South was now interested in slam but realized they could be missing the top two honors in hearts. Therefore Blackwood was **NOT** the answer. This partnership's cue bidding style was to show either first or second round controls. And, to avoid ambiguity about which suit they had agreed (a 4♣ cue could be confusing), South cue bid diamonds. When North could not cue bid a heart control, South knew they were high enough.

**PLAY:** West won the first two heart tricks and South claimed the rest. What is so interesting about this hand is that in a local game, seven of the ten North-South pairs bid either 6♠ or 6NT. Six went down and one pair was successful. I'm still not sure what happened with that defense since West was on lead.

To oversimplify the issue: When you want to know **HOW MANY** aces partners has, use Blackwood. When you want to know **WHICH** aces partner has, start cue bidding.

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#### #4

As declarer, it's often correct to draw trumps right away but sometimes it's better to put them to good use. Take a look at this hand.

Scoring: Matchpoints (pairs)

<b>Hand</b>	♠KQ5				
<b>#12</b>	♥Q875				
<b>Dlr</b>	E	♦62			
<b>Vul</b>	N-S	♣A632			
			<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>
♠A4					Pass
♥106			2♣	DBL*	Pass
♦KQ43			Pass	3♥	Pass
♣QJ1094			All Pass		Pass
					1♦
					2♥
					4♥

\*Negative Double

**BIDDING:** After I opened the bidding, West made a rather poor overcall. A two-level overcall should show a much better suit and/or a better hand. My partner made a negative double showing one or both of the majors and we quickly reached game.

**PLAY:** West led the queen of clubs and I could count nine tricks: 3 spades, 4 hearts, 1 diamond, and 1 club. I could get a tenth by simply ruffing a diamond in dummy or a club in my hand, but this was matchpoint scoring so I looked around for an overtrick. I won the club in dummy and played one round of trumps. I then played a spade won by West. He continued clubs and I ruffed in my hand. Next I played a second round of trumps followed by three spades discarding a diamond from dummy. It didn't matter if the person with the last trump had been able to ruff, the diamond was a loser anyway. I then started cross-ruffing diamonds and clubs. The opponents won the last trick with the diamond king and the last trump.

Note if you draw two rounds of trumps before leading spades, the person with the spade ace might also hold the last trump and return it reducing your ruffing power.

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## **Bloomington-Normal 70% club Years 2021-2 only**

<b>2021/12/10</b>	<b>74.39%</b>	<b>Lane O'Connor &amp; Steve Wulfers</b>
<b>2021/11/10</b>	<b>70.14%</b>	<b>Chris Benson &amp; Steve Babin</b>
<b>2021/11/10</b>	<b>76.25%</b>	<b>Donna Uhlenhop &amp; Jane Franklin(Wed aft limited pairs)</b>
<b>2021/11/1</b>	<b>71.22%</b>	<b>Leonard Wochner &amp; Doug Lamb(Mon eve pairs)</b>
<b>2021/9/18</b>	<b>71.43%</b>	<b>Larry Ziegler &amp; John Ford</b>
<b>2021/8/8</b>	<b>72.38%</b>	<b>Dave &amp; Zach Freehill</b>
<b>2021/8/9</b>	<b>70.48%</b>	<b>Mary Pat Killian &amp; Bob Bray</b>
<b>2021/7/28</b>	<b>71.21%</b>	<b>Ray Dostal &amp; Steve Wulfers</b>
<b>2021/7/12</b>	<b>75.83%</b>	<b>Fred Spitzzerie &amp; Zach Freehill</b>
<b>2021/7/11</b>	<b>72.28%</b>	<b>Eunice Patton &amp; Larry Ziegler</b>
<b>2021/7/7</b>	<b>70.83%</b>	<b>David Quigg &amp; Rich Hagenauer</b>
<b>2021/7/7</b>	<b>70.83%</b>	<b>Hank Hoffman &amp; Zach Freehill</b>
<b>2021/6/7</b>	<b>72.00%</b>	<b>Rick Kern &amp; Michelle Tomlin(Mon eve pairs)</b>
<b>2021/5/31</b>	<b>73.26%</b>	<b>Larry Ziegler &amp; John Ford</b>
<b>2021/5/5</b>	<b>70.43%</b>	<b>Chris Benson &amp; David Quigg</b>
<b>2021/4/15</b>	<b>71.91%</b>	<b>Lori Moore &amp; Mary Allen</b>
<b>2021/3/20</b>	<b>71.11%</b>	<b>Pat Lebeck &amp; Lynn Steffen(Wed aft limited pairs)</b>
<b>2021/2/11</b>	<b>70.74%</b>	<b>Lori Moore &amp; Mary Allen</b>
<b>2021/2/19</b>	<b>70.37%</b>	<b>Mary Pat Killian &amp; Rick Dalton</b>
<b>2021/2/11</b>	<b>71.85%</b>	<b>Lori Moore &amp; Mary Allen</b>
<b>2021/1/16</b>	<b>70.28%</b>	<b>Larry Ziegler &amp; John Ford</b>
<b>2021/1/15</b>	<b>71.61%</b>	<b>Mary Cralley &amp; Charles Wiese</b>



# BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell

#069 – AN “OOPS!” MOMENT



	♠ 8754 ♥ ♦ KQJT52 ♣ AKQ	
♠ J63 ♥ KQJT87 ♦ 73 ♣ 32	North West      East Declarer	♠ 9 ♥ A9543 ♦ A98 ♣ T964
	♠ AKQT2 ♥ 62 ♦ 64 ♣ J875	

*Both Vulnerable*

**South   West   North   East**

2♥      3♦      4♥

4♠      Pass      6♠      All Pass

West's 2♥ was a so-called Weak Two, typically showing around 6-10 points and six cards in the bid suit. After that, N-S stumbled into 6♠ which turned out to be a great contract. At least it was until Declarer botched the play.

West led the ♥K and North tabled a rather yummy Dummy. "Perfect!" said Declarer. He ruffed the Heart on the board, drew two rounds of trumps and then, when East showed

out on the second round, he said to himself "Oops!" or "Oh, rats!" or something like that. What had just gone wrong? Declarer still had a Heart loser in his hand, so he could not draw the last trump and knock out the ♦A ... in that case the defense would cash a Heart. Nor could Declarer ruff the Heart loser in Dummy ... in that case he would be unable to get back to hand to draw the last trump and, one way or another, West would score his ♠J. Down one. Oops, indeed!

Declarer would have made his contract if he had postponed his celebration of Dummy's yumminess and instead asked himself "What can possibly go wrong?" The answer is a 3-1 trump break and having realized that he would draw just one round of trumps. Then he would ruff the remaining Heart loser on the board and still have a trump in Dummy with which to return to hand, before drawing West's last trump, and setting up the Diamonds.





## #070 – SQUEEZED IN THREE SUITS

	♠ A954 ♥ QJT ♦ J5 ♣ AJT2	
♠ KJT ♥ 9763 ♦ KQT3 ♣ K8	<i>North</i>	♠ 872 ♥ A854 ♦ 742 ♣ 754
	<i>West</i> <i>East</i>	
	<i>Declarer</i>	
	♠ Q63 ♥ K2 ♦ A986 ♣ Q963	

*Both Vulnerable*

	<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
		1♦	Dbl	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass	

3NT is an optimistic contract, but things get better when West leads the Heart Three to East's Ace, followed by a second Heart. With the ♥A in the East hand, the bidding marks all the remaining HCP with West. How will you take advantage of this?

The Club finesse is sure to work, taking the trick count to eight. The bad news is that the Spade King is surely sitting over the Queen ... the good news is that, as West holds the

missing high cards, he is likely to come under pressure when you play the Clubs. So, after winning the ♥K at Trick 2 you successfully run the ♣9, play a low Club to the King and Ace, and cash the ♣J. When West shows out, what do you know about his distribution? Not five Diamonds (West didn't lead one), nor three Diamonds (East didn't raise), so assume four Diamonds. How many Hearts? West would have led top-of-nothing with three (also, East might have bid 1♥ with five), so assume West has four Hearts. That means West is 3=4=4=2 and the hand is an open book.

What does West pitch on the third Club? Not a Spade, in that case you cash the ♠A and duck a Spade to West's King, scoring the 9<sup>th</sup> trick with the ♠Q ... not a Heart, in that case you cash the ♥Q and run the ♦J around to West (now West must play on Diamonds or Spades, either of which gives up the 9<sup>th</sup> trick) ... and not a Diamond, in that case you run the ♦J around to West's Queen and have the timing to set up the 13<sup>th</sup> Diamond. Poor West was squeezed in three suits, but it required accurate card reading to take advantage of that.



#071 – DECLARE OR DEFEND?

	♠ AKQJ ♥ A7432 ♦ ♣ K963	
♠ 65 ♥ KJT5 ♦ KJ9 ♣ AJT2	North  West East  Declarer	♠ 432 ♥ Q9 ♦ T876 ♣ 8754
	♠ T987 ♥ 86 ♦ AQ5432 ♣ Q	

*Both Vulnerable*

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

South's hand was not good enough to bid her Diamonds at the two-level, so she responded 1♥ and soon found herself declaring a 4♠ contract.

You can see all four hands, it's time to place your bets. Do you want to declare or defend?

Declarer can count a trick in each side-suit, so one route to success would be to cross-ruff the hand, scoring those trumps separately. But not so fast! West cleverly finds the opening lead of a trump, and Declarer can be sure that the defense will lead another trump next time they get in. The second trump lead holds Declarer to only six trump tricks (♠A, ♠K, plus two ruffs in each hand) to go with the three side-suit tricks.

So 4♠ is down one? Not necessarily, it may be possible to set up a long Heart for the 10<sup>th</sup> trick, and the best way to do that is to lose a Heart at Trick Two. The defense returns another trump, and now Dummy's ♥A is cashed, then a Heart ruffed. Declarer's ♣Q is taken by West, who cannot lead another trump. He does best to exit with a Club, but Declarer wins that in Dummy, ruffs another Heart, cashes the ♦A, ruffs a Diamond, draws East's last trump, and scores Dummy's long Heart. Making 10 tricks!

West could have made Declarer's life more difficult by letting Declarer's ♣Q hold the trick! This surprising play leaves Dummy an entry short of being able to enjoy the long Heart. So, down one after all? No, of course not, if West finds that fine play then Declarer counters by overtaking with the Queen with the King! That provides the extra Dummy entry, and 4♠ does indeed make. Was that how you bet?



#072 – A SPORTING DOUBLE

	♠ KQ642 ♥ AT ♦ T86 ♣ AK3	
♠ JT7 ♥ ♦ AKQJ532 ♣ 874	North West East Declarer	♠ A98 ♥ Q7432 ♦ 97 ♣ T92
	♠ 53 ♥ KJ9865 ♦ 4 ♣ QJ65	

N-S Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
2♥	3♦	4♥	Pass
Pass	5♦	5♥	Dbl
All Pass			

We suspect that East doubled 5♥ with great glee, no doubt anticipating a sizeable penalty. In some quarters this is ironically known as a “sporting double”, meaning that it is far from sporting and actually a sure thing. Well, most of the time, anyway!

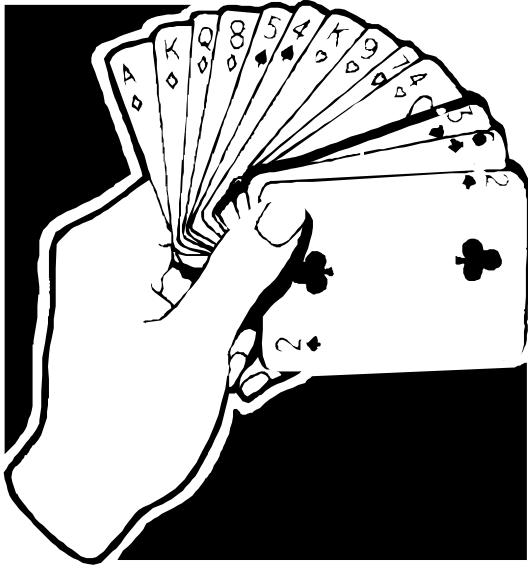
West led the ♦A, then the ♦K which was ruffed by Declarer. With one Ace already lost, and the ♠A to be lost later, Declarer could not afford to lose a trump trick. Given the 5-0 break, avoiding a trump loser might seem impossible, but watch what happened! After ruffing the Diamond at Trick 2, Declarer lost to the ♠A, won the Spade return, and ran the ♥T. The good news was that this held the trick and, when West showed out, that (surprisingly) wasn't really bad news at all!

Next, a Spade was ruffed, and three Clubs were cashed, ending in Dummy. Here was the end position (West was merely a spectator at this point):

<i>Dummy</i>	♠64 ♥A ♦T	
		<i>East</i> ♥Q743
<i>Declarer</i>	♥KJ9 ♣6	

Dummy led a Diamond and East now had to suffer the ignominy of (a) being forced to ruff that in front of Declarer; then (b) under-ruffing when Dummy ruffed a Club; and finally (c) at Trick 12, falling victim to a Trump Coup, being obliged to ruff with his Q7 in front of Declarer's KJ! It really was most unsporting of Declarer to play the hand so well.





**Please see schedules on page 1**



**AMERICAN CONTRACT  
BRIDGE LEAGUE**

— DEALING INFINITE POSSIBILITIES —