



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 24 Number 8 – August, 2022



August 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 – 749ers only pairs

Wednesdays, 6:50pm – open pairs

Thursdays, 6:30pm – 499ers only pairs

Thursdays, 6:50pm – open 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 8/6/2022 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



1	4,610.05	Steve Babin
2	3,582.40	Zach Freehill
3	3,397.36	Eunice Patton
4	3,174.53	Cindy Moore
5	2,573.66	Mike Tomlianovich
6	2,404.57	Ann Schuyler
7	2,369.32	Lori Moore
8	1,880.33	Ron Emmett
9	1,728.13	Joyce Clay
10	1,619.70	Jeff Furler
11	1,272.27	Jeanne Strand
12	1,271.08	Steve Wulfers
13	1,161.80	Ivey Weaver
14	855.65	Dave Freehill
15	844.28	Stevie Joslin
16	840.70	Barbara Neuges
17	835.61	Ray Dostal
18	807.22	Sallie Boge
19	693.79	Fred Spitzzeri
20	593.22	Mary Cralley
21	560.13	Larry Ziegler
22	503.12	John Cralley
23	443.46	Chris Zogg
24	435.33	Gene Byers
25	420.34	Rick Dalton

Other players:

13,425.30	Chris Benson-LeRoy
6,010.26	Larry Matheny-Ft Collins CO
5,872.47	Ron Sholes-Springfield
5,591.68	John Seng-Champaign
4,618.91	Len Kaufman-Peoria
3,809.64	JoAnn Schroeder-Appleton,WI
3,771.60	Carole Sholes-Springfield
3,683.99	Mary Allen-Peoria
3,670.73	Terry Goodykoontz
2,714.79	Georgia Heth-Morton
2,689.15	Pat Carrington-Champaign
2,654.93	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
2,679.03	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
2,454.67	John Maloney-Champaign
2,438.47	Chuck Young-Peoria
2,065.33	Marilyn Stickel-Laon
1,866.57	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
1,425.25	Wes Seitz-Champaign
1,375.44	Dan Bunde-Urbana
1,135.41	Bill Strauss-Urbana
909.95	Bill Thompson-Ft Myers,FL
903.84	Darryl Bremner-Clinton
803.33	Carole Miller-Champaign
737.88	Melda Richardson-California
624.15	Lane O'Connor-Naperville
599.90	Connie Tucker-Champaign
584.49	Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
569.08	Ron Sinn-Peoria
556.48	John Ford-Harvard,MA





IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

with Larry Matheny



Editor's note: I am having a problem copying Larry's content directly to this newsletter. Please use these links:

#1

http://www.gigglypig.com/playerscorner/ImproveYourPlay/ImproveYourPlay_06-21.html

#2

http://www.gigglypig.com/playerscorner/ImproveYourPlay/ImproveYourPlay_06-22.html

#3

http://www.gigglypig.com/playerscorner/ImproveYourPlay/ImproveYourPlay_06-23.html

#4

http://www.gigglypig.com/playerscorner/ImproveYourPlay/ImproveYourPlay_06-24.html



Bloomington-Normal 70% club Year 2022 only

2022/7/21	73.61%	Chris Zogg & Carolyn Burrell(499ers online)
2022/6/29	81.35%	Marilyn & Gene Byers(749ers online)
2022/6/9	71.43%	Cindy Moore & Jeff Furler
2022/6/6	70.37%	Sharon Martin & Margaret Wolf(social to duplicate)
2022/5/25	72.62%	Glee Cumbow & Jim Kalmbach(299ers)
2022/4/26	70.24%	Rick Dalton & Rob Husband(499ers online)
2022/4/25	72.40%	Chris Zogg & Zach Freehill
2022/4/11	72.50%	Lori Moore & Rick Dalton
2022/4/11	70.00%	Ann Rybolt & Pam Graves(social meets duplicate)
2022/3/28	71.30%	Dick Dubroff & Mike Gross(social meets duplicate)
2022/3/21	75.00%	Mike Gross & Zoe Freeman(Mon eve pairs)
2022/3/14	72.22%	Mike Gross & Michelle Tomlin(Mon eve pairs)
2022/1/24	72.22%	Cheris Larsen & Mike Gross(Mon eve pairs)
2022/1/17	71.88%	Margaret Wolf & Dick Dubroff(social meets duplicate)



BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#081 – RUFFS IN THE LONG HAND

♠ JT98 ♥ AK74 ♦ K52 ♣ T2	<i>North</i>	♠ 4 ♥ 9832 ♦ QT863 ♣ K94
♠ A32 ♥ QJT ♦ J97 ♣ AQJ8	<i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	
♠ KQ765 ♥ 65 ♦ A4 ♣ 7653		

We'll spare you the auction, but it looks like Partner's been overbidding again, as you find yourself declaring 4♠ on slender values. The good news is that the hands fit well and after the opening lead of the ♥Q you actually have a chance. You have four natural trump tricks and four side-suit winners, so the other two must come from ruffs. The obvious solution is to ruff two Clubs in Dummy (the "short hand"). Do you see any snags?

The problem with going after Club ruffs in Dummy is that the lead must be lost twice. If the trumps are 3-1 this will allow the defense to lead three rounds of trumps, holding Dummy's ruffs to just one and leaving Declarer a trick short. The solution is to go after *three* ruffs in *Declarer's* hand. That way ten tricks are reached via Dummy's three natural trump tricks, plus Declarer's three ruffs, plus the four side-suit winners. So, Declarer wins the

opening lead with the ♥A, cashes ♥K, ruffs a Heart, cashes ♦A and ♦K and ruffs a Diamond. Declarer eventually reaches Dummy with a trump, and can score that third ruff in the long hand.

When Declarer is ruffing those red suits she will take care to ruff high, thereby ensuring that she actually can reach Dummy later on. If, after taking two low ruffs, Declarer left herself with ♠KQ7, West would be able to thwart Declarer's plan.

P.S. Yes, an opening trump lead sets the contract.



#082 – A MATTER OF TIMING

	♠ A964 ♥ QT9632 ♦ ♣ KQ3	
♠ 83 ♥ KJ ♦ KQT72 ♣ JT96	North West East Declarer	♠ 752 ♥ 875 ♦ AJ86 ♣ A52
	♠ KQJT ♥ A4 ♦ 9543 ♣ 874	

E-W Vulnerable

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

4♠ is a precarious contract, and requires careful timing if Declarer is to succeed. West leads the ♦K, which Declarer ruffs in Dummy. What are the dangers, and how will Declarer overcome them?

Some Heart tricks are required, but it won't do to draw trumps and then play on Hearts, in that case the defense will cash their Diamonds. Better timing is required and Declarer must play on Hearts first, allowing Dummy to handle a Diamond continuation. So, the ♥A is cashed, and a Heart lost to West's King. Back comes a Diamond, ruffed in Dummy, what next?

It's still too soon to draw trumps! That would leave Dummy without a quick entry to the Hearts, and the defense would get in with their ♣A and again have Diamond winners to cash. So, Declarer makes another fine play, he leads Dummy's ♣K! Now East has only losing options:

- He can take his ♣A and persist with Diamonds, in which case Dummy ruffs (with the Ace!), trumps are drawn, and the ♣Q is an entry to Dummy's Hearts.
- He can take the ♣A and return a Club (knocking out Dummy's entry), in which case Declarer can scamper home on a cross-ruff, scoring one Heart, one Club, and all eight of those trumps.
- He can duck the ♣A, in which case it's another cross-ruff.

That was delicately timed, as drawing even a single round of trumps early in the play would be a mistake. Look what happens: Diamond opening lead is ruffed, Spade to Declarer's King, ♥A, Heart to West's King, Diamond ruff, ♥Q ruffed by West, ♣J covered by the King and Ace, Club to Dummy's Queen. Now Declarer has an awkward guess ... if the remaining two enemy trumps are split then Dummy's Ace must be cashed before running the Hearts ... but if East has both missing trumps (the actual case) then the Hearts must be played first. It's better to avoid that guess!



#083 – AN ESSENTIAL PRECAUTION

	♠ K ♥ J854 ♦ J75 ♣ AKQJ6	
♠ Q932 ♥ 9763 ♦ A6 ♣ 875	North West East Declarer	♠ 854 ♥ K ♦ KQ982 ♣ T942
	♠ AJT76 ♥ AQT2 ♦ T43 ♣ 3	

Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

N-S zip into 4♥, and West sensibly leads the unbid suit. After the defense has cashed three Diamonds, East exits a Spade and now the contract depends on Declarer picking up the trumps for no losers. Any thoughts?

Of course, Declarer will finesse against East for the ♥K and the lazy way of doing that is to run the Jack around, thereby keeping the lead in Dummy for a repeat finesse, if necessary. But, alas for Declarer, there is no repeat finesse! East's King covers the ♥J and, when East shows out on the second Heart, Declarer realizes that he has blundered! Now West's Heart Nine will eventually score a trick and Declarer is down one.

It was necessary for Declarer to lead a *low* Heart from the board, an essential precaution against East having a singleton King. This is the kind of problem that nobody gets wrong when they see it in the newspaper. But in the heat of battle it is a different story, as evidenced at a recent club duplicate game where four (embarrassed) Declarers managed to lose a trump trick and go down.



#084 – A SHOW-OFF SQUEEZE

♠ K87
♥ AKJ84
♦ 6
♣ K982

♠ QJT654	North	♠ 3
♥ T653	West	♥ Q7
♦ 52	East	♦ 987
♣ 3	Declarer	♣ AQJT765

♠ A92
♥ 92
♦ AKQJT43
♣ 4

Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
		1♥	3♣
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Against 6♦ West led a Club, won by East's Ten. Hoping for a trump promotion, East returned a low Club, but Declarer could afford to ruff high and draw trumps. There are 11 tricks on top, where's the 12th?

Plan A is to cash the top Hearts and ruff a Heart, hoping that the ♥Q comes down in three rounds. That happens to work on the actual lie of the cards,

but it's not a good way to play the hand. More often than not, West will have long Hearts with the Queen (remember that East has long Clubs and is therefore likely to be short in Hearts).

Plan B is the doomed Heart finesse, but fortunately there's a Plan C which is guaranteed to succeed, regardless of who has the ♥Q! Declarer cashes the ♠A, ♠K and ♥A, and returns to hand with a Club ruff. With West showing out on the second Club, and East showing out on the second Spade, East is known to have started with 1=2=3=7 distribution.

Does that change things? Sure it does! Declarer rattles off the remaining Diamonds, keeping ♥KJ in Dummy and putting West under pressure. West must hang on to a high Spade, which will leave room in his hand for just one Heart. At Trick 12 a Heart is led and when West does not show up with the Queen, Declarer can be sure that it is dropping from the East hand. It's called a Show-Up Squeeze, and there's no guesswork required! Actually, Declarer could have flaunted his mastery by claiming after Trick 5. That would have been a Show-Off Squeeze.

P.S. After drawing trumps, Declarer did well to cash the ♠A next. That way, if East is void in Spades then the Hearts must be 3-3, and Declarer can revert to Plan A.





Please see schedules on page 1



**AMERICAN CONTRACT
BRIDGE LEAGUE**

— DEALING INFINITE POSSIBILITIES —