

Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 24 Number 9 – September, 2022



September 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-Lacon**
- 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



The next 4 columns appear on the next 4 pages:

IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

There are many conventions available for you and your partner but you still need good judgment. Take a look at this hand.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand #25	♠ AKQ43		West	North	East	South
Dlr N	♥ 963			1♠	Pass	2♦
Vul E/W	♦ Q73					
	♣ A10		Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
♠ 10	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ J76	Pass	4♣	Pass	
♥ A1054		♥ QJ72				4NT
♦ 854		♦ 6	Pass	5♦	Pass	5♥
♣ QJ987		♠ 65432	Pass	6♠	Pass	
	♣ 9852					6NT
	♥ K8		All			
	♦ AKJ1092		Pass			
	♣ K					

BIDDING: Sitting South, after my partner raised diamonds, I set spades as the trump suit. Next she cue bid clubs and I bid 4NT. We use Roman Keycard Blackwood (four aces + trump king) and her 5♦ bid showed three keycards. I then bid 5♥ to ask if she held the spade queen. Her leap to 6♠ showed the queen but no outside king. I could now count thirteen tricks (five spades, six diamonds, and two clubs) but the opponents held the heart ace. I next bid 6NT to protect the heart king from the opening lead.

PLAY: West did not lead the ace of hearts so I took all thirteen tricks. Note that 6♠ is doomed with a heart lead. The convention helped us get to the slam but realizing the danger of a heart lead saved it.

Copyright ©2007 Larry Matheny.

IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

with Larry Matheny

Conventions are important and here's an example of using the right tools to stay out of trouble. Take a look.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand #26 Dlr N Vul E/W	♠ A63 ♥ KQ6 ♦ J1098 ♣ KQJ					
♠ 10 ♥ J109752 ♦ 2 ♣ 98763	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ 54 ♥ A43 ♦ A7653 ♣ 1052	West Pass All Pass	North 1NT 4♥	East Pass Pass	South 4♠* 4♣
	♠ KQJ9872 ♥ 8 ♦ KQ4 ♣ A4					

*Gerber

BIDDING: South was interested in slam as soon as he heard his partner's 1NT opening bid. His leap to 4♣ was the Gerber convention asking for the number of aces. The 4♥ response showed only one so South reluctantly signed off in game.

PLAY: With no attractive lead, West led his singleton diamond and hit pay dirt when his partner won the ace. East returned the seven of diamonds requesting a heart return (higher of the other two suits). West ruffed and East won the heart continuation but West had no more trumps so declarer scored up the game. The pairs who first bid their spade suit and then used Blackwood ended up in 5♠ down one on the same defense. Those unsuccessful pairs were certainly unlucky, but the South hand needs only to discover the number of aces and the Gerber convention was invented just for that purpose.

The Gerber convention is generally used after a 1NT or 2NT opening bid. It may also be used after a jump in NT.

Copyright ©2007 Larry Matheny.

IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

When playing in a matchpoint (pairs) event, overtricks are very important. Take a look at this hand.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand #27	♠ 103				
Dlr N	♥ A986				
Vul E/W	♦ A98				
	♣ 9876				
		West	North	East	South
♠			Pass	Pass	2♣
♥ J1075	<div style="width: 100%; height: 100%;"></div>		Pass	3♣*	6♣
♦ KQJ2			All		
♣ AJ1043			Pass		
	♠ AKQJ9872	♠ 654			
	♥ KQ2	♥ 43			
	♦ 4	♦ 107653			
	♣ K	♣ Q52			

*Control showing

BIDDING: Holding a hand with around nine winners, South opened with a strong, artificial 2♣. This partnership uses control showing responses (ace=2, king=1) and 3♣ showed four. This meant either two aces, one ace and two kings, or four kings. It was easy to determine North's holding so 6♣ was quickly reached.

PLAY: West led the diamond king and declarer immediately saw his only loser was a club. If East held the club ace, declarer could try to score his king by sneaking a club past him. Or, he could find the hearts 3-3 and discard his club on the last heart. However, there was a better plan. If the person who held four (or more) hearts also held the ace of clubs, he could be squeezed. Accordingly, after winning the first trick South ran all of his trumps coming down to a four-card ending. Dummy kept four hearts and declarer three hearts and the king of clubs. Since West was unable to keep four hearts and the ace of clubs, he eventually pitched his ace hoping his partner held the king. This gave South his overtrick and a good score.

There is often more than one way to play a hand and the careful declarer will look for the best chance to succeed.

IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

with Larry Matheny

To be a good declarer you must know how to play many different suit combinations. However, making the percentage play is not always that easy. Take a look at this hand.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand #28	♠ K8732				
Dlr N	♥ J9				
Vul E/W	♦ Q932				
	♣ J9				
	□				
♠ A10		♠ Q	West	North	East
♥ 108643		♥ AQ752		Pass	Pass
♦ 874		♦ J106	Pass	4♣	All
♣ 852		♣ 10643			Pass
	♠ J9654				
	♥ K				
	♦ AK5				
	♣ AKQ7				

BIDDING: South held a great hand but a weak spade suit. North jumped to 4♣ to show a weak hand with long spades. Such a leap usually contains a singleton or void but North felt this was the most descriptive bid with this hand. Fortunately, this partnership also agrees that this jump denies an ace so South was comfortable passing. Several pairs used Blackwood to discover they were missing two aces and now they had to make 5♣.

PLAY: West led a low heart won by East with the ace. South ruffed the heart continuation and his only problem was how to play the spade suit. Declarer led a low spade from his hand and West followed with the ten. Now what? Let's look at the possible spade holdings in the West hand: AQ10, A10, Q10, and 10. You can't go wrong with the first one; you either win with the king or duck and get back to your hand and lead toward the king again. And, with the singleton 10 on your left, you always lose two tricks. That leaves A10 and Q10 for us to ponder. This seems to be a 50-50 proposition on whether to duck or play the king. Assuming the bidding hasn't helped you locate the ace, the only other variable is the person in the West seat. If he "hitches" before playing the ten you might consider playing the king. Or, if you feel he would always rise holding the ace, you can duck. This is where your table presence comes in. It's your call.

While this should be a 50-50 guess, in a recent club game 10 pairs made five, 2 pairs



Bloomington-Normal 70% club Year 2022 only

2022/7/29	70.15%	Lori Moore & Rick Dalton
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



#085 – DON'T BE FOOLED!

♠ Q973
♥ QJ98
♦ J943
♣ A

♠ JT86	<i>North</i>		♠ K542
♥ K4	<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>	♥ 32
♦ AQ5			♦ T82
♣ QT32	<i>Declarer</i>		♣ 9864

♠ A
♥ AT765
♦ K76
♣ KJ75

E-W Vulnerable

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

In a problem-solving mood? Then cover up S-E and look only at the N-W hands. As West, you lead the ♠J and the defense must somehow conjure up four tricks. But be warned! Declarer is a tricky fellow, and some flim-flam is not entirely out of the question.

The ♠J opening lead is covered by the Queen, King, Ace. Declarer leads a Club to Dummy's ♣A, and then takes the losing Heart finesse. After winning

the ♥K it is time for West to ponder a while. Where will the defense find three more tricks?

Can the defense cash three Diamonds? Probably not, Declarer is favorite to hold the ♦K and, anyway, there's no rush, those Diamonds aren't going anywhere. It looks like there is a Spade to cash (based on the play of the ♠Q at Trick 1), but that also can wait. So you exit safely with a Heart and await developments. Declarer wins that in Dummy and leads a Diamond to his King and your Ace. Now what?

At this point it might seem obvious for West to cash the ♠T and the ♦Q for down one. But by now you should be getting suspicious. Why hasn't Declarer led a Spade to the board, setting up Dummy's Nine for a Diamond pitch? The reason is that Declarer doesn't have a second Spade! That squandering of the Queen at Trick 1 was a clever ruse, designed to fool you. The only way to beat the contract now is to lead a casual *low* Diamond, hoping that Declarer will misguess and finesse the Diamond Nine. He probably will, and that will be down one! A fiendishly deceptive play is foiled by sound logic.



#086 – THE KEY CARD

	♠ 3 ♥ AKQ2 ♦ AK95 ♣ A765	
♠ KQT9852 ♥ 5 ♦ 8 ♣ K982	North West East Declarer	♠ J ♥ T43 ♦ QJT7642 ♣ JT
	♠ A764 ♥ J9876 ♦ 3 ♣ Q43	

West opens 3♣ and eventually South becomes Declarer in 6♥. West's opening lead is the ♠K, won by Declarer's Ace. Looking just at the N-S hands, Declarer can count four side-suits tricks, with a fifth available if the ♣K is with East. That means that he will need to score 7 or 8 trump tricks if he is to make his slam. And with East sure to be out of Spades by now, any Spade ruffs will have to be high. How do you make 12 tricks?

One possibility is to hope for 2-2 trumps and for East to have the ♣K. In that case, trumps are drawn, and Declarer gets up to 12 with five trumps in his hand, five side-suit tricks and two Spade ruffs on the board. That's not a good plan ... firstly, as West has extreme Spade length, he is likely to have less than his share of the Hearts ... secondly, this line requires the ♣K with East, and those readers who have peeked at the E-W hands can see that

this is not the case.

Better, but still not good enough, is to arrange for two high Spade ruffs, and to pick up trumps by finessing against East's Ten. That caters for the 3-1 trumps, but it's down one when the ♣K is offside. The route to success is to ruff *three* Spades high in Dummy: win the ♠A, cross to the ♣A, finesse the Heart Nine, ruff a Spade, cash ♦AK (pitching a Club from hand), and then merrily cross-ruff the hand. That well-timed line of play works against most distributions, requiring only that East has the ♥T. *That's* the key card on this deal, not the ♣K!



#087 – BLUFF & DOUBLE-BLUFF

♠ QT3 ♥ T7 ♦ QJT95 ♣ A98		
♠ A872 ♥ A84 ♦ 832 ♣ T75	North West East Declarer	♠ K95 ♥ Q652 ♦ 764 ♣ QJ3
♠ J64 ♥ KJ93 ♦ AK ♣ K642		

E-W Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

South opens a 15-17 1NT, opposite which a 9-point hand is very much on the borderline between bidding game and inviting game. But North's 9-pointer is a particularly fine specimen, what with that 5-card suit and all those lovely Tens, so in this case North has no qualms whatsoever about bidding 3NT directly.

West's opening lead is his 4th best Spade to East's King. East returns the Spade Nine and, in this situation, it sometimes pays for West to duck the trick, thereby maintaining communications between the E-W hands (so that East still has a Spade to lead if and when he gets in again). But here that is not necessary. West has the ♥A as a fast entry and has no need to duck the second Spade. So, West wins the ♠A and leads a third round, won by Dummy's Queen.

At this point, Declarer has 8 top tricks and must guess the Heart suit correctly if she is to make her contract. When she leads a Heart from Dummy should she play the King or the Jack? It may seem like a pure guess, but in fact Declarer has a clue. West didn't duck that second Spade! Presumably he didn't think it was necessary, and the strong inference is that West has a fast entry, namely the ♥A. So Declarer finesses the Jack and brings home her contract!

If West is a truly devious fellow (and many bridge players are) then he might duck the second Spade anyway, even though it is unnecessary. That could prompt an alert Declarer to conclude that West has no fast entry, and therefore that the ♥A must be with East. In that case, Declarer hops up with the King and goes down one! Then again, if Declarer knows that West is of the devious persuasion, she might smell a rat and guess right anyway. And if West guesses that Declarer will smell a rat then he might ...



#088 – PROTECTING PARTNER’S ENTRY

♠ K4
♥ KT32
♦ J876
♣ KQ5

Both Vulnerable

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

♠ QJT83 ♥ 64 ♦ Q32 ♣ 876	North West East Declarer	♠ 975 ♥ QJ97 ♦ A4 ♣ JT94
		♠ A62 ♥ A85 ♦ KT95 ♣ A32

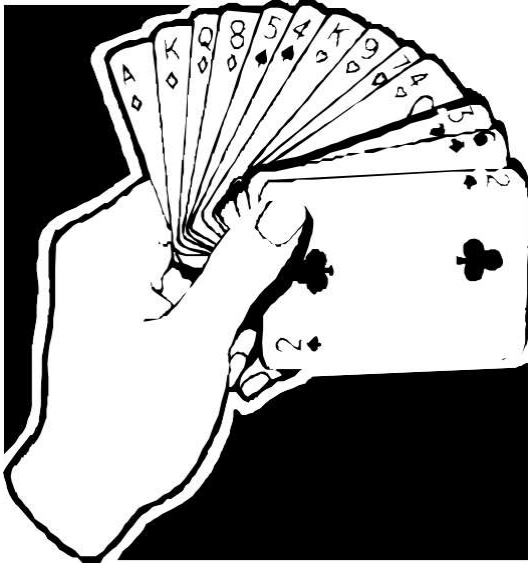
A combined 27 HCP is usually plenty for a 3NT contract, but here the N-S hands did not fit well together. Even so, East needed to keep his wits about him if he was to beat the contract. But, sadly for E-W, East’s wits deserted him at the crucial moment. See if you can do better.

Against 3NT West led the ♠Q which held the trick. Dummy’s King won the second Spade, the Diamond finesse lost to West’s Queen, then back came

another Spade, won by Declarer’s Ace. Now, when Declarer conceded a trick to the ♦A, East was out of Spades, so West’s Spade winners were useless and Declarer romped home with 9 tricks.

Declarer played her part well by holding up on the first Spade, in an attempt to disrupt the E-W communications, but East overlooked an effective counter-measure. With South opening a 15-17 1NT, East knew that his partner had a maximum of five HCP, and three of those had already shown up in the Spade suit. West’s only possible entry to the long Spades was the ♦Q, and it was East’s job to protect that entry for use later in the hand, when the Spades had been established. The way to do that was to disregard the old adage of “second hand low” and to grab the ♦A on the first round of the suit. Now, after the ♠A is knocked out, it is West who wins the second round of Diamonds and can cash his Spades for down one. Alert play by those Easts who hopped up with the ♦A!





Please see schedules on page 1



**AMERICAN CONTRACT
BRIDGE LEAGUE**

— DEALING INFINITE POSSIBILITIES —