

# Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 25 Number 1 – January, 2023



## 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:**

**all 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:**

**Wednesdays, 12:30pm – open pairs**

**Wednesdays, 12:30pm – 299ers only pairs**

**Wednesdays, 12:30pm – social plus pairs**

**Contact Mike Tomlianovich at 309-825-5823 for more information.**

**Online(BBO) bridge available at:**

**Tuesdays, 6:50pm – 749ers only pairs**

**Thursdays, 6:30pm – 499ers only pairs**

**Thursdays, 6:50pm – 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 12/6/2022 – residents of Bloomington-Normal  
only paid up ACBL members only



- 1 4,698.43 Steve Babin
- 2 3,626.39 Zach Freehill
- 3 3,421.75 Eunice Patton
- 4 3,234.63 Cindy Moore
- 5 2,595.06 Mike Tomlianovich
- 6 2,433.68 Ann Schuyler
- 7 2,399.18 Lori Moore
- 8 1,916.87 Ron Emmett
- 9 1,788.43 Joyce Clay
- 10 1,633.34 Jeff Furler
- 11 1,313.39 Steve Wulfers
- 12 1,272.27 Jeanne Strand
- 13 868.45 Barbara Neuges
- 14 858.25 Dave Freehill
- 15 843.37 Ray Dostal
- 16 825.70 Sallie Boge
- 17 712.85 Fred Spitzzeri
- 18 594.48 Mary Cralley
- 19 592.30 Larry Ziegler
- 20 503.12 John Cralley
- 21 480.58 Chris Zogg
- 22 446.91 Rick Dalton
- 23 446.04 Gene Byers
- 24 398.21 Pat Lebeck
- 25 376.48 Marilyn Byers

### more players:

- 13,531.36 Chris Benson-LeRoy
- 6,077.05 Larry Matheny-Ft Collins CO
- 5,904.40 Ron Sholes-Springfield
- 5,631.72 John Seng-Champaign
- 4,692.02 Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
- 3,850.61 JoAnn Schroeder-Appleton,WI
- 3,799.27 Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 3,761.23 Mary Allen-Peoria
- 3,730.37 Terry Goodykoontz
- 2,718.55 Georgia Heth-Morton
- 2,704.78 Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
- 2,689.15 Pat Carrington-Champaign
- 2,654.93 Margaret Hansell-Champaign
- 2,520.30 Chuck Young-Peoria
- 2,457.37 John Maloney-Champaign
- 2,080.90 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
- 1,934.52 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
- 1,454.32 Wes Seitz-Champaign
- 1,378.30 Dan Bunde-Urbana
- 1,160.40 Bill Strauss-Urbana
- 943.44 Bill Thompson-Ft Myers,FL
- 949.40 Darryl Bremner-Clinton
- 803.33 Carole Miller-Champaign
- 743.90 Melda Richardson-California
- 649.34 Connie Tucker-Champaign
- 624.15 Lane O'Connor-Naperville
- 599.84 Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
- 582.53 John Ford-Harvard,MA
- 575.91 Ron Sinn-Peoria
- 392.39 Lynn Steffen-El Paso





# IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

with Larry Matheny



**The next 4 columns appear on the next 4 pages:**

## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

There is no doubt having the right convention on your card can help with difficult bidding problems. Here is a great example.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

<p><b>Hand #41</b> <b>Dir S</b> <b>Vul E/W</b></p>	<p>♠ AJ75 ♥ QJ83 ♦ 2 ♣ A532</p>		<p><b>West</b> <b>North</b> <b>East</b> <b>South</b></p>		
					<p>1♥</p>
<p>♠ 986 ♥ ♦ AQ1075 ♣ J10984</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	<p>♠ 104 ♥ 972 ♦ KJ964 ♣ K76</p>	<p>Pass 4♦* Pass</p> <p>Pass 5♥ Pass</p>	<p>Pass</p> <p>Pass</p>	<p>4NT</p> <p>6♥</p>
	<p>♠ KQ32 ♥ AK10654 ♦ 83 ♣ Q</p>		<p>All Pass</p>		

\*Splinter bid

**BIDDING:** South had no slam ambitions until he heard his partner leap to 4♦. Knowing North held game values with four hearts and a singleton or void in diamonds made the South hand look great. After checking on aces, South bid the slam.

**PLAY:** West led the ace of diamonds and South soon claimed the rest. It's great to make a slam with a combined total of only 26 high card points. Of course it's possible to bid the slam without the splinter bid but it would be difficult. Holding a small doubleton in a side suit is often a danger sign.

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## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

When you play matchpoint bridge every overtrick is important. This is true even when you are in a slam. Take a look.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

<b>Hand #42</b> <b>Dir E</b> <b>Vul E/W</b>	♠ A1098 ♥ 865 ♦ Q10974 ♣ K						
♠ QJ32 ♥ ♦ K653 ♣ QJ1063	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ 654 ♥ J42 ♦ J8 ♣ 98752	♠ K7 ♥ AKQ10973 ♦ A2 ♣ A4	<b>West</b> Pass Pass All Pass	<b>North</b> 2♠* 4♥	<b>East</b> Pass Pass Pass	<b>South</b> 2♣ 3♥ 6♥

\*Controls: one ace and one king

**BIDDING:** This partnership shows controls (aces and kings) in response to a strong 2♣ opening bid. After discovering heart support to go along with an ace and a king, South bid the slam.

**PLAY:** West led the queen of clubs and declarer quickly saw his only loser was a diamond. Unless the diamond king was singleton or the queen-jack of spades doubleton, the only way to make the overtrick would be a squeeze. South saw that if the West held the diamond king along and length in the spade suit, he could be had. After winning the club lead, declarer drew trumps, played the diamond ace and the club ace, and then ran the rest of his hearts. On the last heart, poor West had to come down to three cards from a holding of ♠QJ3 and ♦K. Behind him dummy held ♠A109 and ♦Q so whatever West decided to do would yield the thirteenth trick. Note that cashing the diamond ace early makes the ending clear to declarer.

Also notice that the squeeze will not work against East because he discards after dummy. And those pairs who played in 6NT enjoyed the same squeeze opportunity.

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## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

We look again at the importance of overtricks when playing matchpoints. This one is not too difficult but several declarers failed to find the winning play.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

<b>Hand #43</b> <b>Dir N</b> <b>Vul E/W</b>	♠ A82 ♥ A983 ♦ J7 ♣ QJ84						
♠ KJ1096 ♥ J ♦ Q654 ♣ 752	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ Q543 ♥ 6542 ♦ K1083 ♣ 10	♠ 7 ♥ KQ107 ♦ A92 ♣ AK963	<b>West</b>  Pass  Pass  All Pass	<b>North</b>  1♣ 2♥ 5♥	<b>East</b>  Pass Pass Pass	<b>South</b>  1♥  4NT 6♥

**BIDDING:** The North hand is certainly not robust but in today's bridge world where almost any twelve point hand is opened, 1♣ was the bid at most tables. The South hand just kept getting better. First he had a great club fit with his partner and when his hearts were raised, he went immediately into slam mode. Finding two aces across from him made it easy for him to bid six. Since his partner had shown a minimum hand with his raise to 2♥, South made no attempt to get to seven.

**PLAY:** West had no attractive lead but finally settled on a low diamond. South quickly counted eleven tricks: 1 spade, 4 hearts, 1 diamond, and 5 clubs. The easiest way to a twelfth trick seemed to be to ruff a spade in his hand. In fact, this "dummy reversal" looked like it could provide an overtrick. He won the diamond ace and played the heart king. When the jack fell, he proceeded with his plan. He played a spade to the ace and ruffed one with the queen to unblock the trump suit. Next the seven of hearts to dummy's eight provided the entry to ruff another spade to his hand. He then played a club to dummy's queen and drew the last trump. The club suit provided the last five tricks giving him thirteen in all: 1 spade, 2 spade ruffs, 4 hearts, 1 diamond, and 5 clubs. Note the unblocking play in the trump suit gave him an easy entry to dummy. If he ruffs the first spade with the seven of hearts, the heart suit is blocked. And finally, if West's opening lead had been a club instead of a diamond, now it is too dangerous to use a club to gain

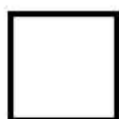
## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

The smart declarer will take advantage of every opportunity to make his contract. Take a look at this beauty.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand #44   ♠ 8732  
Dir E   ♥ K3  
Vul E/W   ♦ AQ9  
♣ K986

♠ AJ10  
♥ 10976  
♦ 864  
♣ Q73



♠ KQ94  
♥ A5  
♦ J532  
♣ AJ4

♠ 65  
♥ QJ842  
♦ K107  
♣ 1052

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

**BIDDING:** This was a standard Stayman sequence. The hand will usually play better in the suit contract, particularly if both hands are short in the same side suit.

**PLAY:** West led the ten of hearts and declarer stopped to count his losers. He saw a diamond loser, a possible club loser, and one or two spade losers. It seemed right to lead trumps first so the first trick was won in dummy and a low spade went to the king and ace. West continued with the spade jack so South knew he was going to lose two spade tricks. Declarer won the spade queen and led a low diamond to the queen and king. East got out with a heart to the ace and declarer stopped to evaluate his position. It looked like he needed to find the queen of clubs on his right but he had a better plan. He next led a diamond to the ace and another back to his jack. He then led the last diamond pitching a club from dummy. With the red suits eliminated, he played a third spade to West who now had to lead a club into declarer's hand or provide a sluff/ruff. Making four was a good result because several declarers relied on the club finesse and failed.

Note there was nothing particularly difficult about his hand. An inexperienced player loves to take finesses but the expert will look for ways to avoid them.

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## **Bloomington-Normal 70% club Year 2022 only**

<b>2022/10/27</b>	<b>73.61%</b>	<b>Lynn Steffen &amp; Karen Fox(499ers online)</b>
<b>2022/10/12</b>	<b>75.00%</b>	<b>Chris Benson &amp; Steve Babin</b>
<b>2022/9/26</b>	<b>72.22%</b>	<b>Janet Creek &amp; Mary Jane Linke(social to duplicate) </b>
<b>2022/9/21</b>	<b>71.25%</b>	<b>Chris Benson &amp; Steve Babin</b>
<b>2022/7/29</b>	<b>70.15%</b>	<b>Lori Moore &amp; Rick Dalton</b>
<b>2022/7/21</b>	<b>73.61%</b>	<b>Chris Zogg &amp; Carolyn Burrell(499ers online)</b>
<b>2022/6/29</b>	<b>81.35%</b>	<b>Marilyn &amp; Gene Byers(749ers online)</b>
<b>2022/6/9</b>	<b>71.43%</b>	<b>Cindy Moore &amp; Jeff Furler</b>
<b>2022/6/6</b>	<b>70.37%</b>	<b>Sharon Martin &amp; Margaret Wolf(social to duplicate) </b>
<b>2022/5/25</b>	<b>72.62%</b>	<b>Glee Cumbow &amp; Jim Kalmbach(299ers)</b>
<b>2022/4/26</b>	<b>70.24%</b>	<b>Rick Dalton &amp; Rob Husband(499ers online)</b>
<b>2022/4/25</b>	<b>72.40%</b>	<b>Chris Zogg &amp; Zach Freehill</b>
<b>2022/4/11</b>	<b>72.50%</b>	<b>Lori Moore &amp; Rick Dalton</b>
<b>2022/4/11</b>	<b>70.00%</b>	<b>Ann Rybolt &amp; Pam Graves(social meets duplicate)</b>
<b>2022/3/28</b>	<b>71.30%</b>	<b>Dick Dubroff &amp; Mike Gross(social meets duplicate)</b>
<b>2022/3/21</b>	<b>75.00%</b>	<b>Mike Gross &amp; Zoe Freeman(Mon eve pairs)</b>
<b>2022/3/14</b>	<b>72.22%</b>	<b>Mike Gross &amp; Michelle Tomlin(Mon eve pairs)</b>
<b>2022/1/24</b>	<b>72.22%</b>	<b>Cheris Larsen &amp; Mike Gross(Mon eve pairs)</b>
<b>2022/1/17</b>	<b>71.88%</b>	<b>Margaret Wolf &amp; Dick Dubroff(social meets duplicate)</b>





# BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



## #101 – WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS

♠ A95
♥ K854
♦ KJ653
♣ Q

**None Vulnerable**

South	West	North	East
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Pass	1♠	Dbl	1♣
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

♠ JT732	North	♠ Q8
♥ T72	West	♥ QJ9
♦ A98	East	♦ Q7
♣ T2	Declarer	♣ KJ9843
♠ K64		
♥ A63		
♦ T42		
♣ A765		

Optimistic N-S bidding lands South in a seemingly hopeless 3NT. But one good thing about such contracts is that it's so much fun when they make! You will need to put on your hornswoggling shoes for this one.

West leads the ♠T and Declarer holds up her Ace. East continues the suit, and it looks safe for Declarer to win that one (surely West is now out of

Clubs). Can Declarer make nine tricks if East holds the ♦A? No, if East has that card then the contract will be down on the run of the Clubs. So, if Declarer is to make 3NT, she must assume that West has the ♦A. Next question. Where is the ♦Q? If West has the ♦A, then Declarer can safely assume that, in order for East to have his opening bid, he must hold all the missing Queens, including the ♦Q.

Things are looking bleak, but perhaps East's ♦Q is singleton, will that help? No, the ♦Q will fall under the King, but West has the spots and will get two Diamond tricks, giving Declarer no more than eight total tricks.

When all else fails, Declarer must rely on a defensive error. Can you see a way to put East to the test? Yes, there's a neat little swindle in the cards! After winning the ♣A, Declarer crosses to Dummy's ♥K and leads a low Diamond! If East is not at the top of his game he will routinely play low, and Declarer's Ten will force the Ace. Later, the ♦Q falls under the King, and Declarer has four Diamond tricks and nine altogether!



## #102 – A REVEALING AUCTION

	♠ Q765 ♥ 7 ♦ AK8 ♣ AKQ86	
♠ KT43 ♥ 98632 ♦ 974 ♣ 9	North West      East Declarer	♠ A982 ♥ AQ ♦ T52 ♣ 7532
	♠ J ♥ KJT54 ♦ QJ63 ♣ JT4	

### Both Vulnerable

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

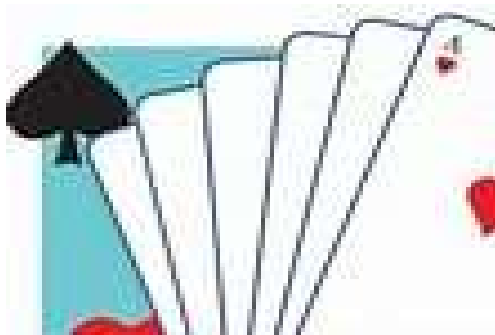
The delicate N-S auction was designed to determine whether they belonged in 3NT or 5♣. Eventually they chose 3NT but along the way they generously donated all sorts of useful information to their opponents.

West mulled over the auction, always a good idea before making the opening lead. What did North's 2♦ mean? It was inconceivable that N-S would play in a Diamond contract, so West concluded that North was bidding out his pattern, which appeared likely to be 4=1=3=5. By so doing, North was indirectly saying to Partner (and to the opponents) "I am short in Hearts, if your Hearts are weak then perhaps we belong in Clubs rather than 3NT".

As for South, he had bid Hearts, after which he would not have bid No Trump without something in the unbid Diamond suit. For his third bid he raised Clubs, at which point there didn't seem to be much room for a whole lot of Spades in his hand, maybe two but quite possibly only one.

After that riveting and revealing auction, what would you lead? Not a Heart, nor a Club, those can hardly be right. A Diamond lead doesn't seem so appealing, either, with North and South both indirectly showing something in the suit. That leaves a Spade. Which one? Yes, West must lead the *King*, protecting against South having a singleton Queen or Jack. Nicely done, Mr. West, the ♠K is the killing lead! And, of course, West will be sure to follow up with the ♠T at Trick 2.

A more Neanderthal North would simply have raised 1NT to 3NT. Now West has fewer clues. He might lead a top-of-nothing Diamond, he might lead a Spade, but even if he chooses the latter there won't be a compelling reason to lead the spectacular King.



## #103 – PARTNERSHIP DEFENSE

♠ AQJT7  
♥ Q32  
♦ A76  
♣ 74

North  
West East  
Declarer

♠ 98  
♥ AJ74  
♦ QJT53  
♣ 96

♠ 4  
♥ T95  
♦ K84  
♣ AKQT85

### None Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
		1♠	2♣
<b>Dbf</b>	<b>3♣</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Pass</b>
<b>3♦</b>	<b>All Pass</b>		

It's often said that defense is the toughest part of the game. But sound partnership agreements are a big help, and on this board E-W work together like a well-oiled machine to get a ruff and defeat the contract.

A part-score battle lands N-S in 3♦. West leads a Club and this is where the partnership agreement comes in. On opening lead against a suit contract,

with three small in a suit, common practice is to lead a low one. But an exception occurs when the opening leader has bid the suit, as she did in the auction above. In such a case, it is customary to lead the top card, denying an honor, safe in the knowledge that Partner won't misread the lead as a doubleton.

Alert readers will have noticed that West does not actually have three small. Precisely! So her opening lead is a *low* Club, promising an honor. East wins that with the Queen and tries to figure out where the defense might be getting their five tricks. The ♦K is one ... two Club tricks hopefully ... surely not more than one Heart (West would no doubt have led a high Heart holding AK) ... and no Spades. That's only four, and a Spade ruff is needed to get to five. So, At Trick 2, East shifts to a Spade, leading into Dummy's imposing suit. West plays low on this (otherwise Declarer's Heart losers will all disappear), and Declarer now loses the trump finesse to East's King. East confidently underleads his ♣AK to West's Jack, gets his Spade ruff, and eventually the ♥K becomes the setting trick. Nicely done!



# #104 – NO MATH REQUIRED

♠ KT8  
♥ QJ652  
♦ A874  
♣ 7

	North	
West		East
Declarer		

♠ 642  
♥ A97  
♦ J92  
♣ KJ64

### E-W Vulnerable

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

This week's hand offers two ways to play the Clubs. Which is better? No need to be a math whiz, some simple logic comes up with the same correct solution as that calculated by our resident Professor of Statistics.

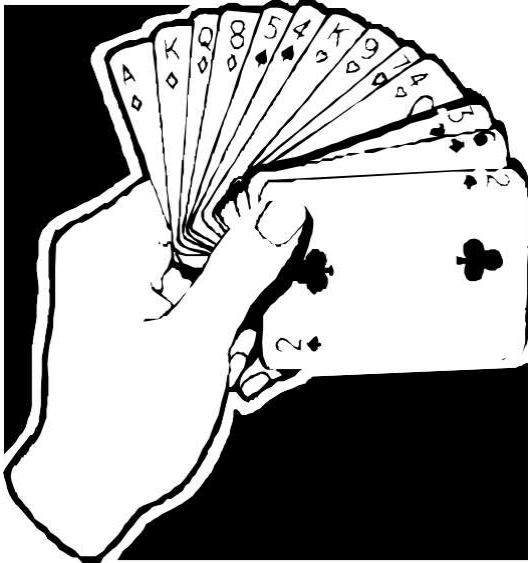
West led a trump, a good choice! After that opening lead, this is not a good slam at all, requiring Clubs to be brought home for no losers, with only two

Club ruffs available on the board. Do you cash the ♣A and ruff a couple of Clubs, hoping that the ♣K comes down in three rounds? Or do you finesse the ♣Q and then ruff two Clubs, hoping that the King is onside and comes down in four rounds?

Things get simpler as soon as Declarer realizes that, regardless of who holds the King, Clubs must be 4-3, otherwise the suit will never set up. What are the chances of the Club finesse working? 50%. What are the chances of one of the defenders holding ♣Kxx (we are counting the Jack as an x for this discussion)? The aforementioned professor would make some calculations with lots of factorials involved and announce that, if Clubs are 4-3, there are 30 possible holdings of Kxx and 40 holdings of Kxxx. That makes Kxx about a 43% probability, not as good as the finesse. And simple logic arrives at the same conclusion. If one hand has four places for the King and the other has only three places, where is the King more likely to be? That's right, in the hand with longer Clubs.

So, Declarer wins the opening trump lead in Dummy, finesses the ♣Q, ruffs a Club, crosses to the ♦K, ruffs a Club, cashes ♦A, ruffs a Diamond, draws trumps, and cashes the remaining Clubs. 12 tricks!





**Please see schedules on page 1**



**AMERICAN CONTRACT  
BRIDGE LEAGUE**

— DEALING INFINITE POSSIBILITIES —