

# Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 25 Number 2 – February, 2023



## February 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**

**Saturdays, 11:00am – 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 1/6/2023 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only  
paid up ACBL members only



- 1 4,718.36 Steve Babin
- 2 3,628.02 Zach Freehill
- 3 3,428.44 Eunice Patton
- 4 3,241.13 Cindy Moore
- 5 2,600.21 Mike Tomlianovich
- 6 2,433.68 Ann Schuyler
- 7 2,402.22 Lori Moore
- 8 1,920.71 Ron Emmett
- 9 1,796.53 Joyce Clay
- 10 1,639.34 Jeff Furler
- 11 1,321.68 Steve Wulfers
- 12 1,272.27 Jeanne Strand
- 13 870.44 Barbara Neuges
- 14 859.98 Dave Freehill
- 15 844.90 Ray Dostal
- 16 828.47 Sallie Boge
- 17 724.65 Fred Spitzzeri
- 18 602.52 Larry Ziegler
- 19 595.98 Mary Cralley
- 20 503.12 John Cralley
- 21 484.56 Chris Zogg
- 22 454.32 Rick Dalton
- 23 447.45 Gene Byers
- 24 404.27 Pat Lebeck
- 25 378.89 Marilyn Byers

### more players:

- 13,556.22 Chris Benson-LeRoy
- 6,096.51 Larry Matheny-Ft Collins CO
- 5,913.08 Ron Sholes-Springfield
- 5,640.98 John Seng-Champaign
- 4,703.85 Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
- 3,852.00 JoAnn Schroeder-Appleton,WI
- 3,806.33 Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 3,772.77 Terry Goodykoontz
- 3,762.66 Mary Allen-Peoria
- 2,753.75 Georgia Heth-Morton
- 2,704.78 Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
- 2,689.15 Pat Carrington-Champaign
- 2,654.93 Margaret Hansell-Champaign
- 2,529.40 Chuck Young-Peoria
- 2,459.04 John Maloney-Spring Hill,FL
- 2,081.82 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
- 1,945.90 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
- 1,460.85 Wes Seitz-Champaign
- 1,378.30 Dan Bunde-Urbana
- 1,163.29 Bill Strauss-Urbana
- 951.62 Bill Thompson-Ft Myers,FL
- 962.82 Darryl Bremner-Clinton
- 803.33 Carole Miller-Champaign
- 743.90 Melda Richardson-California
- 658.00 Connie Tucker-Champaign
- 624.90 Lane O'Connor-Naperville
- 601.17 Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
- 588.25 John Ford-Harvard,MA
- 575.91 Ron Sinn-Peoria
- 397.60 Lynn Steffen-El Paso





# IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

with Larry Matheny



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

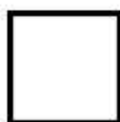
## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

If you're going to overbid, your declarer play must be good enough to support those aggressive bidding tendencies. Here's a hand where declarer didn't pay quite enough attention to the small cards.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand #45    ♠ A1032  
 Dir E        ♥ 108  
 Vul E/W     ♦ A64  
               ♣ QJ93

♠ KJ9  
 ♥ QJ932  
 ♦ J8  
 ♣ A104



♠ 87  
 ♥ AK54  
 ♦ K105  
 ♣ K876

♠ Q654  
 ♥ 76  
 ♦ Q9732  
 ♣ 52

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

**BIDDING:** North decided his eleven high card points and club fit warranted an invitation to game. South had nothing extra, no long suit, and no fit with partner so he should have passed 2NT.

**PLAY:** West led the queen of hearts and South stopped to count his tricks. He saw 1 spade, 2 hearts, 2 diamonds, and (hopefully) 3 clubs, which left him one trick short. Hoping for a miracle, he won the first heart and knocked out the ace of clubs. West returned the heart jack and declarer, after failing to find a helpful diamond or spade holding in the opponents' hands, conceded down one. I'm sure you've noticed by now that if declarer had returned the five of hearts after winning the second heart, his four would be the ninth trick. It's fairly standard stuff to remember the aces and kings but this hand shows why it is so important to also keep track of the smaller cards.

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## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

Some people take finesses just for the practice but a good declarer will take only those that are necessary. Take a look at this hand.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

<b>Hand #46</b> <b>Dir E</b> <b>Vul E/W</b>	♠ 952 ♥ QJ93 ♦ J2 ♣ AQJ3		♠ KQ10 ♥ 54 ♦ K1087 ♣ K986	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ A873 ♥ 10 ♦ 96543 ♣ 1052		♠ J64 ♥ AK8762 ♦ AQ ♣ 74		<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass			
West	North	East	South																						
		Pass	1♥																						
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥																						
All Pass																									

**BIDDING:** North invited game with a limit raise and South accepted.

**PLAY:** West led the king of spades and East encouraged with the eight. West continued with the queen of spades and East won the third spade with the ace. East now switched to a low diamond and without much thought, declarer played the queen to end up one down when the finesse lost. This was not good bridge. It didn't matter where the diamond king was located; the contract depended upon finding the king of clubs in the West hand. When that finesse succeeded, a repeat club finesse would allow declarer to discard his diamond loser on the ace of clubs. This was not difficult and declarer should have understood the contract depended upon the king of clubs before he played to trick one. This shows the importance of playing the hand, not the suit.

It's efforts like this that send players scampering to the Partnership Desk.

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## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

The successful declarer will study the entire hand before he plays to trick one. Here is a good example.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand #47	♠ Q2				
Dir E	♥ AK				
Vul E/W	♦ KQ8752		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>
	♣ 1073				<b>South</b>
				Pass	1♠
♠ 9763		♠ J5	Pass	2♦	Pass
♥ 876		♥ 10952	Pass	3♣	Pass
♦ A9		♦ 1063	Pass	3♠	Pass
♣ KQ94		♣ A865	Pass	3♠	Pass
	♠ AK1084		All		
	♥ QJ43		Pass		
	♦ J4				
	♣ J2				

**BIDDING:** This N/S pair plays the 2/1 system so 2♦ was forcing to game. Over his partner's 2♥ bid, North's bid of the fourth suit (instead of notrump) suggested he did not have a stopper in that suit. South next showed a mild preference to diamonds also denying a club feature. After North showed a doubleton in spades, South carried on to game.

**PLAY:** The bidding practically begged for a club lead and the defenders quickly led three rounds. Declarer trumped the third club and carefully studied his situation. Since he still had to lose a diamond, he could not afford to lose a spade trick. That meant the outstanding trumps must divide 3-3 or the jack had to be doubleton. But if he drew trumps and they were 4-2, the defenders would lead another club after winning the diamond ace. So declarer played a diamond to dummy's king and the defenders could no longer defeat the contract. Declarer next unblocked the heart ace-king and drew trumps.

Note if the defenders win the diamond and lead another club, declarer can ruff this in dummy. Then he unblocks the hearts, plays the spade queen, and returns to his hand with the jack of diamonds to draw trumps. Be sure to see that declarer must not draw trumps before ensuring his tenth trick, a diamond.

## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

If you're not in the best contract, even good declarer play isn't enough. Here's a good example.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

<b>Hand #48</b> <b>Dir E</b> <b>Vul E/W</b>	♠ K762 ♥ J92 ♦ A975 ♣ K8					
♠ Q10 ♥ AK10753 ♦ J4 ♣ 1065	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ J9854 ♥ 64 ♦ Q863 ♣ 74	<b>West</b>  1♥  Pass  Pass	<b>North</b>  DBL* 3♥ 5♣	<b>East</b>  Pass Pass Pass All Pass	<b>South</b>  1♣ 3♣ 4♣
	♠ A3 ♥ Q8 ♦ K102 ♣ AQJ932					

\* Negative Double

**BIDDING:** North's cue bid of 3♥ asked South to bid 3NT with a heart stopper. Not realizing the value of the queen opposite JXX, South declined and North raised to the club game.

**PLAY:** After winning the first two heart tricks, West continued with a third round. The first reason was to allow partner to ruff out dummy's jack, and the second was the possibility partner would ruff with an honor and promote the ten of clubs. Declarer was now stuck with what appeared to be a losing trick in diamonds. After drawing three rounds of trumps, he realized that West had started with nine cards in hearts and clubs and therefore would likely be short in the other two suits. With a squeeze against East in mind, declarer next played three rounds of spades ruffing in hand. Now he knew West held only two diamonds so he tightened the noose around East. On the last trump, East had to discard from ♠J and ♦Q86 while dummy held ♠7 and ♦A9 and declarer held ♦K102. A discard from either suit would give declarer his eleventh trick.

This was a well played hand by declarer. Unfortunately, several pairs were in 3NT also making eleven tricks for a better score. In most of those cases, South opened the bidding 1NT and the higher scoring game was quickly reached.



## Bloomington-Normal 70% club Year 2022 & 2023 only

2022/10/27	73.61%	Lynn Steffen & Karen Fox(499ers online)
2022/10/12	75.00%	Chris Benson & Steve Babin
2022/9/26	72.22%	Janet Creek & Mary Jane Linke(social to duplicate)
2022/9/21	71.25%	Chris Benson & Steve Babin
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



### #105 – THE VANISHING TRUMP TRICK

	♠ 52 ♥ AJ ♦ 9872 ♣ AQJT9	
♠ KJ ♥ 9642 ♦ KJ5 ♣ K753	North West      East Declarer	♠ Q983 ♥ 875 ♦ AT43 ♣ 86
	♠ AT764 ♥ KQT3 ♦ Q6 ♣ 42	

#### E-W Vulnerable

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

None of the N-S bids was completely terrible, but the auction worked out badly, leaving South to labor in a poor 3♠ contract. But careful timing and accurate card reading will win the day.

West leads a low Diamond to East's Ace, a Diamond is returned to West's King, and the ♦J is ruffed by Declarer. Things are looking pretty bleak! For starters, Declarer will need the Club finesse to work. And then there is the small matter of the trump suit, where Declarer can afford only two losers. Doesn't that require the suit to be 3-3? Not necessarily!

After ruffing the Diamond, Declarer cashes the ♠A and exits a low Spade, West following with the Jack and then winning the second round with the King. West exits with a Heart won by Dummy's Ace, then the ♥J is overtaken by the King. Declarer could now exit with a Spade, making his contract if Spades are 3-3. Is that a good idea? No, West has shown up with ♦KJ and ♠KJ and needs to have the ♣K if the contract is to make. That's 11 HCP, so West cannot also have the ♠Q, that would give him an opening bid. To have a chance, Declarer must assume that West started with ♠KJ doubleton and East with ♠Q983. But if that is the case, doesn't East have two trump tricks coming? Not necessarily!

Leaving East's ♠Q9 at large, Declarer finesses the ♣Q, ruffs a Diamond, cashes a third Heart (playing East to be 4=3=4=2), and crosses to the ♣A (no need to repeat the Club finesse). Declarer has carefully arranged to get the lead in Dummy with just two cards left. East has ♠Q9, and Declarer has the ♠T and a Heart. Dummy leads a Club and, whether East ruffs high or ruffs low, one of his two Spade "winners" vanishes! It's called a *Coup en Passant*.



# #106 – A GOOD ATTITUDE

I

♠ K
♥ J743
♦ J8765
♣ KJ7

♠ T96	North	♠ J532
♥ T982	West	♥ 5
♦ AQ	East	♦ KT92
♣ T985	Declarer	♣ A632

♠ AQ874
♥ AKQ6
♦ 43
♣ Q4

### Both Vulnerable

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

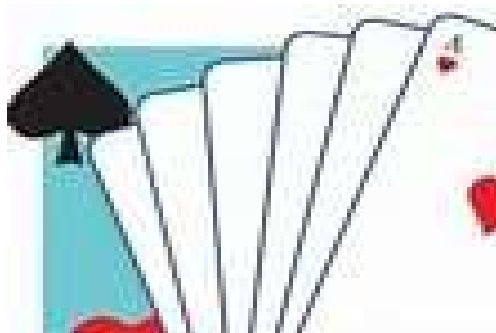
Against 4♥ West leads the Club Ten, won by East's Ace. A Diamond shift is clearly called for, and the standard play from that holding is the Ten, the so-called "top of an interior sequence". Is that your choice or are there other considerations?

If West has Ace doubleton in Diamonds then East can envisage a trump promotion if West also has the right trump holding. But, as it happens, West

has ♦AQ and the danger is that West will win the ♦Q on the first round of the suit. That would be the right play if East held a trump honor but not the ♦K, but it would be disastrous on the actual layout, killing the chance of a trump promotion.

In the middle of the hand (starting at Trick 2), many partnerships play "attitude leads", whereby shifting to a low card usually shows a high card in the suit, and shifting to a high card is either from a weak holding or from the top of a sequence. So, reasoning that it is more important to advertise his ♦K than it is to make an ambiguous interior sequence lead, East shifts to the Diamond Two. Of course, West must be alert and majestically squander his Ace on that trick. Then, back comes the ♦Q overtaken by East's King, and the third round of Diamonds promotes the setting trump trick. Nice defense!

**A Spectacular Deception!** Next, imagine that West holds ♦AQ9 and East ♦KT2. Again the opening lead is a Club to East's Ace and again a low Diamond comes back. West, who is a shockingly devious fellow, wins with his Ace and returns the ♦Q. East overtakes that and sends back a third Diamond. Naturally, Declarer ruffs high, and later finds out to his chagrin that trumps are 4-1 and that he has just gone down in a cold contract!



## #107 – WHAT'S YOUR PLAN B?

♠ QJ732
♥ AQ6
♦ J98
♣ A3

♠ AT964	North	♠ 85
♥ 97	West	♥ T32
♦ T7	East	♦ K32
♣ QJ92	Declarer	♣ KT754

♠ K
♥ KJ854
♦ AQ654
♣ 86

### E-W Vulnerable

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

West leads the ♣Q, won in Dummy. You are playing a duplicate event, meaning that an overtrick will be well rewarded in the scoring. What is your Plan A for making as many tricks as possible? When Plan A doesn't work, you'll need to follow up with a well-reasoned Plan B.

Plan A must surely be to set up the Spades. If Declarer can lose a Spade, ruff a Spade, and draw trumps ending in Dummy, then there are 10 tricks (assuming that Spades are 4-3 and trumps 3-2), with a valuable overtrick in the offing if the ♦K is onside. But Declarer cannot draw trumps before playing on Spades, she needs the ♥A and ♥Q as later entries to the board. So, Declarer loses the ♠K to West's Ace, after which West cashes the ♣J and exits a trump, won in Dummy. Declarer ruffs a Spade, cashes a high trump and crosses to Dummy's last trump. But that well-timed play comes to naught when Spades turn out to be 5-2.

Goodbye Plan A, hello Plan B. This requires playing Diamonds correctly, with Dummy's ♦J98 opposite Declarer's ♦AQ6, and with ♦KT732 somehow distributed between the defenders. There are two certain tricks here, but what's the best play for three? Should you finesse the ♦Q and cash the Ace, hoping that East has ♦Kx? ... or should you lead the ♦J, playing for East to have Kxx and West to have ♦Tx? As West has the long Spades it makes sense to play for East to have the longer Diamonds. With that in mind, Declarer plays East to hold ♦Kxx rather than ♦Kx, which means that leading the ♦J from Dummy is the route to the coveted overtrick.



## #108 – TRUST THE OPPONENTS

	♠ AT ♥ 72 ♦ 54 ♣ AKQJ872	
♠ 2 ♥ AKQJT943 ♦ KQ ♣ T3	North West East Declarer	♠ 753 ♥ 65 ♦ JT876 ♣ 654
	♠ KQJ9864 ♥ 8 ♦ A932 ♣ 9	

### E-W Vulnerable

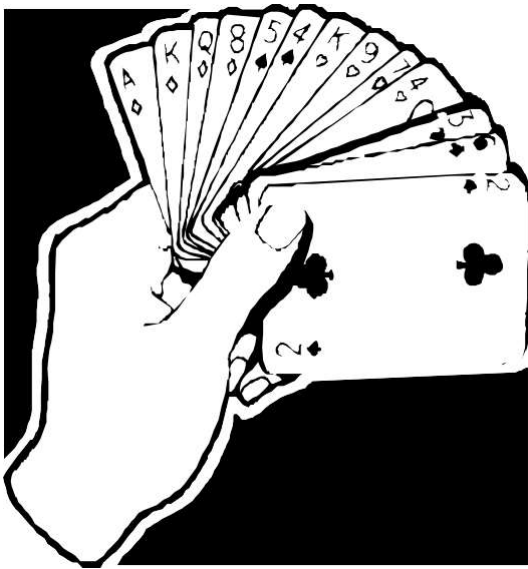
West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	1♠
4♥	5♣	Pass	5♦
	5♥	Dbl	Pass 5♠
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

On this deal, West trusted Declarer's bidding and found a brilliant shift at Trick 2. And Declarer trusted West's bidding enough to find a clever counter and bring home her slam.

On lead against 6♣, West cashed a high Heart and had to decide what to do at Trick 2. If he had tried to cash a second Heart then there would be no story to tell, as Declarer would ruff that, draw trumps and run the Clubs. But West was in a trusting mood, and concluded that Declarer was unlikely to have two Heart losers on this auction. So he found the fiendish shift of the Club Ten, knocking out Dummy's only side-suit entry before trumps had been drawn.

What should Declarer do now? One possibility was to hope for 2-2 trumps, in which case trumps could be drawn, ending on the board, and the Diamond losers then disposed of on the Clubs. But Declarer reasoned that West had done a considerable amount of vulnerable bidding and probably had 8 or 9 Hearts. That being so, it seemed more likely that West had a singleton trump. So, Declarer cashed just one trump on the board and started running the Clubs, pitching Diamonds. East ruffed the fourth round of Clubs, Declarer overruffed, returned to the board with a trump (drawing East's last trump in the process), and got rid of the last Diamond loser on another Club winner. Well bid, well defended, well declared!





**Please see schedules on page 1**



**AMERICAN CONTRACT  
BRIDGE LEAGUE**

— DEALING INFINITE POSSIBILITIES —