



# Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 25 Number 3 – March, 2023



## March 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 – 299ers only and 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**

**Note(Royal StaC week game on March 29th)**

**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, 10:00am – 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 2/6/2023 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only  
paid up ACBL members only



- 1 4,745.82 Steve Babin
- 2 3,637.30 Zach Freehill
- 3 3,448.90 Eunice Patton
- 4 3,252.35 Cindy Moore
- 5 2,604.50 Mike Tomlianovich
- 6 2,434.78 Ann Schuyler
- 7 2,418.65 Lori Moore
- 8 1,926.39 Ron Emmett
- 9 1,814.57 Joyce Clay
- 10 1,649.68 Jeff Furler
- 11 1,325.38 Steve Wulfers
- 12 1,272.27 Jeanne Strand
- 13 873.62 Barb Neuges
- 14 862.19 Dave Freehill
- 15 846.99 Ray Dostal
- 16 831.10 Sallie Boge
- 17 728.26 Fred Spitzzeri
- 18 613.18 Larry Ziegler
- 19 597.48 Mary Cralley
- 20 503.12 John Cralley
- 21 494.82 Chris Zogg
- 22 459.47 Rick Dalton
- 23 449.12 Gene Byers
- 24 409.83 Pat Lebeck
- 25 381.48 Marilyn Byers

### more players:

- 13,599.37 Chris Benson-LeRoy
- 6,125.69 Larry Matheny-Ft Collins CO
- 5,920.20 Ron Sholes-Springfield
- 5,647.62 John Seng-Champaign
- 4,704.50 Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
- 3,864.43 JoAnn Schroeder-Appleton,WI
- 3,816.30 Terry Goodykoontz
- 3,810.69 Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 3,779.02 Mary Allen-Peoria
- 2,754.31 Georgia Heth-Morton
- 2,704.78 Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
- 2,689.15 Pat Carrington-Champaign
- 2,654.93 Margaret Hansell-Champaign
- 2,539.74 Chuck Young-Peoria
- 2,459.04 John Maloney-Spring Hill,FL
- 2,087.26 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
- 1,956.87 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
- 1,466.24 Wes Seitz-Champaign
- 1,378.30 Dan Bunde-Urbana
- 1,163.85 Bill Strauss-Urbana
- 967.57 Darryl Bremner-Clinton
- 962.08 Bill Thompson-Ft Myers,FL
- 803.78 Carole Miller-Champaign
- 747.56 Melda Richardson-California
- 671.72 Connie Tucker-Champaign
- 624.90 Lane O'Connor-Naperville
- 601.17 Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
- 591.09 John Ford-Harvard,MA
- 577.24 Ron Sinn-Peoria
- 400.69 Lynn Steffen-El Paso





# IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

with Larry Matheny



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

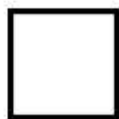
## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

This example shows why it's important to "play the hand" rather than "play the suit". Take a look.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand #49   ♠ AQJ3  
Dir N   ♥ Q10  
Vul E/W   ♦ A1032  
♣ J76

♠ 87  
♥ K865  
♦ Q98  
♣ AK85



♠ K6542  
♥ AJ  
♦ J65  
♣ 432

♠ 109  
♥ 97432  
♦ K74  
♣ Q109

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

**BIDDING:** This was a standard bidding sequence to a spade part score. Notice that E/W failed to balance over 2♠. West should reopen with a takeout double and they will reach 3♥ and succeed for a score of +140.

**PLAY:** Against 2♠, West led the ace of clubs and after receiving an encouraging signal from his partner, continued with the king and then a third round to the queen. East then shifted to a low heart and declarer stopped to analyze his situation. South realized he would probably lose two diamonds if he had to break the suit. That meant if the heart finesse lost he would fail by one trick. Then he saw the solution: He rose with the ace of hearts, drew trumps, and then exited with his last heart. Now the opponents had to lead diamonds or give him a sluff/ruff. Either way he would make his contract. He simply ducks the diamond lead and wins in the other hand. Please note it doesn't matter who wins the heart king for him to succeed.

So while the best way to play this heart combination is to take the finesse, the best way to play the hand is to rise with the ace.

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## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

Some players find it difficult to count an opponent's high card points. Here is a hand where it was essential.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

<b>Hand #50</b> <b>Dir E</b> <b>Vul N/S</b>	♠ 83 ♥ J9832 ♦ KJ4 ♣ QJ6					
♠ 1097542 ♥ 6 ♦ 106 ♣ 8743	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ KQJ ♥ A10 ♦ Q8753 ♣ K109	<b>West</b>  2♥*  All Pass	<b>North</b>  DBL	<b>East</b> 1NT 2♠	<b>South</b> DBL 4♥
	♠ A6 ♥ KQ754 ♦ A92 ♣ A52					

\*Transfer

**BIDDING:** East opened 1NT showing a range of 15-17 HCP. South made a penalty double and poor West transferred to his weak but long spade suit. North doubled the transfer bid to show hearts along with some values. South quickly jumped to game.

**PLAY:** West led the ten of spades and declarer saw he had a possible loser in each suit. He could succeed if the diamond finesse would work but some quick math told him that East needed every missing honor card to reach a 1NT opener. South realized he might be able to end-play East so the first spade was ducked and the ace won the second round. Next declarer led the king of hearts won by East who returned a heart to dummy's jack. Now the queen of clubs was led and if East ducked, the ace and another club would force East to win and return a diamond. (Or, declarer could play three rounds of diamonds to force East to lead a club away from his king.) But, East covered the queen of clubs and declarer won the ace and played the jack and a third club. Unfortunately for East, he was forced to win and return a diamond so declarer made his contract. If East held only the ten he would have discarded it on the club jack to avoid being thrown into the lead.

Those declarers who forgot the bidding or wouldn't count to 15 simply took the diamond finesse and went down.

## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

As declarer it's important to eliminate or at least reduce the number of guesses you have to make. Here is a hand where you can do just that.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

<b>Hand #51</b> <b>Dir E</b> <b>Vul E/W</b>	♠ 1098 ♥ Q983 ♦ K4 ♣ K1063	♠ KJ ♥ J62 ♦ AJ876 ♣ 95	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ 654 ♥ A1075 ♦ Q1053 ♣ QJ4	<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>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	West	North	East	South			Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♦	3♠	All Pass	
West	North	East	South																		
		Pass	1♠																		
Pass	2♠	Pass	Pass																		
3♦	3♠	All Pass																			
	♠ AQ732 ♥ K4 ♦ 92 ♣ A872																				

**BIDDING:** As the auction was about to stop at 2♠, West balanced with 3♦. North now liked the location of his diamond king and raised to 3♠ to end the auction.

**PLAY:** With no attractive lead, West finally selected the nine of clubs. Assuming the diamond ace to be on his left, declarer could count a loser in each of the three side suits so he had to hold his spades losers to one. It was likely the spade king was with West but not a certainty. The first trick went to the ten, jack, and ace. Next, declarer made the key play of the ace of spades from his hand and was rewarded with the jack from the West hand. Declarer now conceded a spade to the king and made his contract. If West had played a small card instead of the jack, declarer would have gone to dummy with a diamond, led a spade from dummy, and then guessed how to play the spade suit. You could, of course, always find the winning play but cashing the ace before leading toward your hand often eliminates a guess.

Unless the KJ was doubleton on your right, you must always lose one trick in the spade suit and the problem was to make sure you didn't lose more. This type of play occurs frequently so be on the lookout for it.

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## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

### with Larry Matheny

To be successful you must listen to the bidding. Here is a hand where many failed when the contract was ice-cold.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

<b>Hand #52</b>					
<b>Dir</b> E	♠ 10985				
<b>Vul</b> N/S	♥ J6				
	♦ 532				
	♣ J1062				
		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
♠ 3				Pass	2♣
♥ KQ105		2♦	Pass	Pass	2♠
♦ AQ1074		3♥	Pass	Pass	4♠
♣ AQ7		DBL	All		
			Pass		
	♠ AKQJ764				
	♥ A				
	♦ KJ8				
	♣ K5				

**BIDDING:** South held a monster hand but apparently West didn't believe him. East had a lot of hearts but no values and poor North was just along for the ride. West was soon going to regret his double.

**PLAY:** West led the king of hearts to South's ace. From the auction, declarer realized that West probably held every outstanding honor card and this showed him a way to succeed. He led a low spade to dummy and trumped a heart to his hand. Next, he led the king of clubs and West was in trouble. Finally, after winning the ace of clubs, West continued with the queen and another club and declarer had ten tricks. Note it doesn't matter what West does, he is completely end-played. Those declarers who tried finessing East for some of the honors were soon defeated.

Please note that declarer must not lead the jack or ten of clubs from dummy. He needs to establish both of those cards for later diamond discards. Also note that East-West can make 4♥. Isn't this a great game?

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



### #109 – RIGHT THROUGH THE PACK

	♠ 32 ♥ 2 ♦ J9876 ♣ 87543	
♠ JT7654 ♥ T86 ♦ 54 ♣ K2	North  West      East  Declarer	♠ KQ98 ♥ 9754 ♦ KT2 ♣ A6
	♠ A ♥ AKQJ3 ♦ AQ3 ♣ QJT9	

Perhaps the most charming bridge book of all time is *Right Through The Pack*, published back in the late forties. The setting is a bridge club in London, the players go home at the end of the game, and the cards then come to life, all 52 of them eager to tell a delightful tale in which they had excelled. If this deal were in that book then it might well be *The Tale of the Heart Two*. See how that heroic little trump saves the day in 4♥.

West leads the ♠J and North tables a rather sad Dummy. To make her contract, Declarer must set up some minor suit tricks. But it won't do to draw trumps first and then start establishing minor winners, in that case the defense will keep pounding away in Spades, forcing Declarer to lose trump control. Well, if drawing trumps won't work then one must do the other thing and not draw trumps. Instead, Declarer plays on the minors, leaving

Dummy's valiant Heart Two at large to handle the defensive Spade onslaught.

Which minor should Declarer attack at Trick 2? There won't be enough tricks from Clubs alone because the suit is blocked, so Declarer plays the ♦Q at Trick 2. But East wickedly withholds the King, allowing the Queen to hold the trick! Now the Diamonds are dead and Declarer must play on Clubs. She loses a Club, ruffs the Spade return, and loses another Club. The defense can lead another Spade if they wish, but to no avail, Dummy's Heart Two is there to take care of that and bring home the contract. So there you have it, a modern-day version of *The Tale of the Heart Two*, with a villainous co-starring role for the Diamond King.



#110 –

ODDS-ON FAVORITE

♠ 82
♥ 73
♦ Q982
♣ A6432

♠ 97	North		♠ 654
♥ QJT98	West	East	♥ AK6
♦ J63			♦ KT754
♣ QT8	Declarer		♣ 95

♠ AKQJT3
♥ 542
♦ A
♣ KJ7

**Both Vulnerable**

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Against 4♠, West led the ♥Q and when Dummy went down both defenders could see the need to stop a Heart ruff in Dummy. In case it was necessary to lead through Declarer (West might have ♠Kx), East overtook with his ♥K and fired back a trump.

You can count nine top tricks and are clearly not going to be allowed to get your tenth via the aforementioned Heart ruff. So, Clubs must come to the rescue, and one obvious line of play is simply to draw trumps, cross to the

♣A and finesse the ♣J. There's a 50% chance that East will have the ♣Q, in which case you'll make your contract. Can you find a line that is odd-on favorite to succeed?

It's better than 50% that the missing Clubs are split 3-2. In fact the odds of that are 68%, so a substantially better bet for developing an extra trick from that Club holding is to lose the first round of Clubs and later to play the ♣K, then ♣A, hoping that the suit behaves.

But it won't work to win the trump shift at Trick 2, draw the remaining trumps, and then lose a Club. In that case the defense will take two Heart tricks and four altogether. Better timing is required. The Club must be lost *before* drawing trumps, that way there will still be a trump on the board to handle that third round of Hearts.

**A Rule of Thumb:** You don't need to memorize probability tables in order to know if a suit is likely to break evenly. Here's a short cut ... when missing an *even* number of cards in the suit then the odds are against it splitting 1-1 or 2-2 or 3-3 ... when missing an *odd* number then the suit is odds-on to split 2-1 or 3-2 or 4-3.



# #111 – ANTI-DISCOVERY PLAY

♠ J6 ♥ 862 ♦ AKQ642 ♣ 63		
♠ K75 ♥ Q3 ♦ JT975 ♣ Q75	North West East Declarer	♠ Q843 ♥ KJ974 ♦ 3 ♣ J42
♠ AT92 ♥ AT5 ♦ 8 ♣ AKT98		

## E-W Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Against 3NT, West led the ♥Q and Declarer held up on the first trick. West continued the suit, and Declarer had to decide whether to win this or hold up again. Looking only at the N-S hands what would be your choice?

If the Heart suit is 4-3 then it's a good idea to hold up a second time, that way, if the Diamonds don't break, it may be possible to develop the Clubs for a total of nine tricks, without the defense scoring five tricks first. But if Hearts are 5-2 then the second hold-up is pointless.

At Trick 1 Declarer had no idea of the Heart situation. Clearly the King was with East, but West's opening lead could have been from Qx or QJx or QJ9x or QJ9xx, all were equally likely as a Heart opening lead was almost inevitable given the auction. But at Trick 2 all became clear when East played the Jack. Now, unless West was a remarkably slippery customer, given to making extravagant opening leads, surely the suit was 5-2. So, Declarer won the second trick, and played Diamonds from the top. When that suit didn't break, Declarer ducked a Club to West, who could cash a couple of Diamonds. But that was all for the defense, scoring those two Diamonds, a Club, and only one Heart.

In order to beat the contract, East must practice the art of concealment. At Trick 2, if he plays the ♥K, then Declarer will be none the wiser. Now it will appear to Declarer that West has led from ♥QJ93, in which case a second hold-up *is* required. But, in fact, it turns out to be fatal, that second Heart trick for the defense will result in the ultimate defeat of the contract.



## #112 – A SECOND CHANCE

♠ 76 ♥ J743 ♦ T65 ♣ J643		
♠ QJT42 ♥ 986 ♦ Q98 ♣ KT	North West East Declarer	♠ AK53 ♥ ♦ 7432 ♣ Q9872
♠ 98 ♥ AKQT52 ♦ AKJ ♣ A5		

### Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

2♣ and 2♦ were artificial (strong and weak respectively), and West led the ♠Q against 4♥. Can you spot the winning defense? And, when East fails to find it, can you see how Declarer takes advantage of her second chance?

The winning defense is for East to overtake the Spade and shift to a Diamond at Trick 2. Sooner or later, Declarer will be forced to take the losing Diamond finesse and that will be down one.

What actually happened was that East did overtake the ♠Q at Trick 1 but cashed a second Spade before shifting to Diamonds. Declarer's Ace won that, then trumps were drawn, at which point it might appear that Declarer must put her money on the Diamond finesse. Down one, as before? Not at all! Before putting all her eggs in the Diamond basket, Declarer loses nothing by cashing the ♣A and exiting a Club. This end-plays West if he happens to hold both the ♠K and ♠Q, or if he holds ♠KT or ♠QT doubleton. It was somewhat unlikely that the Club position would allow the end-play to work, but it was an extra chance that cost nothing, and Declarer always had the Diamond finesse to fall back on, if necessary. *Question:* Wouldn't West also be end-played if he held, say, ♠K2? No, because he would dump that ♠K under Declarer's Ace like a hot potato, cleverly allowing East to win the second Club trick, thereby avoiding the end-play!

Did East misdefend when he failed to shift to a Diamond at Trick 2? Well, there were hands when his defense would have been necessary (picture Declarer with ♠98, ♥AKQT2, ♦AKQ8, ♣K5, for example) so let's just count East as somewhat unlucky.







**Please see schedules on page 1**



**AMERICAN CONTRACT  
BRIDGE LEAGUE**

— DEALING INFINITE POSSIBILITIES —