



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 25 Number 5 – May, 2023



May 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

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 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 4/6/2023 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



- 1 4,793.43 Steve Babin
- 2 3,654.95 Zach Freehill
- 3 3,463.04 Eunice Patton
- 4 3,266.78 Cindy Moore
- 5 2,618.18 Mike Tomlianovich
- 6 2,450.98 Ann Schuyler
- 7 2,426.64 Lori Moore
- 8 1,945.86 Ron Emmett
- 9 1,853.26 Joyce Clay
- 10 1,656.64 Jeff Furler
- 11 1,340.91 Steve Wulfers
- 12 1,272.27 Jeanne Strand
- 13 875.32 Barb Neuges
- 14 868.54 Dave Freehill
- 15 866.28 Ray Dostal
- 16 836.75 Sallie Boge
- 17 737.54 Fred Spitzzeri
- 18 628.72 Larry Ziegler
- 19 603.85 Mary Cralley
- 20 513.67 Chris Zogg
- 21 509.93 John Cralley
- 22 482.79 Rick Dalton
- 23 459.02 Gene Byers
- 24 426.26 Pat Lebeck
- 25 391.13 Marilyn Byers

more players:

- 13,665.10 Chris Benson-LeRoy
- 6,168.93 Larry Matheny-Ft Collins CO
- 5,936.48 Ron Sholes-Springfield
- 5,659.65 John Seng-Champaign
- 4,734.92 Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
- 3,932.32 JoAnn Schroeder-Appleton,WI
- 3,887.23 Terry Goodykoontz
- 3,822.91 Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 3,837.07 Mary Allen-Peoria
- 2,754.63 Georgia Heth-Morton
- 2,707.63 Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
- 2,654.93 Margaret Hansell-Champaign
- 2,566.04 Chuck Young-Peoria
- 2,459.04 John Maloney-Spring Hill,FL
- 2,096.48 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
- 1,960.14 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
- 1,486.85 Wes Seitz-Champaign
- 1,180.09 Bill Strauss-Urbana
- 993.93 Darryl Bremner-Clinton
- 992.94 Bill Thompson-Ft Myers,FL
- 803.78 Carole Miller-Champaign
- 747.56 Melda Richardson-California
- 689.64 Connie Tucker-Champaign
- 624.90 Lane O'Connor-Naperville
- 601.17 Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
- 601.87 John Ford-Harvard,MA
- 472.17 Rich Hagenhauer-Peoria
- 426.70 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 are so many conventions available that some convention cards are heavy with the amount of ink they contain. One popular convention is Roman Keycard used by many players as an enhancement to Blackwood. This convention includes the king of the agreed trump suit when showing the number of aces held by the partnership. It also allows you to ask about the queen of the trump suit. Here is the convention in action.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand #4 Dlr E Vul N/S	♠ K72 ♥ K103 ♦ KQ72 ♣ AQ5		West North East South		
				Pass	1♥
♠ QJ10954 ♥ 74 ♦ 9 ♣ 9873	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ 863 ♥ 986 ♦ J106 ♣ J1064	2♠ 3♠ Pass 5♥ **	Pass 4NT* Pass 5NT	
	♠ A ♥ AQJ52 ♦ A8543 ♣ K2		Pass 7NT All Pass		

*Roman Keycard

**Two keycards w/o the heart queen

BIDDING: After West made a weak jump overcall, North's cue bid showed game going values and heart support. South used 4NT to ask about keycards (4 aces + heart king) and North's response of 5♥ showed two without the heart queen. Next South bid 5NT to ask about kings and, most importantly, promised the partnership held all five keycards along with the trump queen. North could now count thirteen tricks: 2 spades, 5 hearts, 3 diamonds, and 3 clubs so he promptly bid the grand slam.

PLAY: With fifteen top tricks available, declarer quickly claimed his contract. Note without the agreement that 5NT promised all of the keycards, North would show two kings (heart king is not shown again) and South could not for certain count thirteen

IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

with Larry Matheny

The bidding in pairs events is usually very aggressive but the same contract is often reached at several tables. Here is a hand where there were very few identical scores.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand #5 Dir E Vul BOTH	♠ J9 ♥ AQ102 ♦ K94 ♣ K1093					
♠ K87532 ♥ 75 ♦ A853 ♣ A	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ AQ ♥ 963 ♦ J10762 ♣ 875	West 1♠ All Pass	North DBL	East Pass Pass	South Pass Pass 3♥
	♠ 1064 ♥ KJ84 ♦ Q ♣ QJ642					

BIDDING: After West bid 1♠, North made a takeout double. South jumped to 3♥ to show 9-11 points and that ended the auction. He chose hearts rather than clubs because the scoring favors the major suits.

PLAY: Poor South never had a chance. West led his singleton ace of clubs and East, seeing the king in dummy, suspected it was a short-suit lead and followed with the eight to suggest a spade entry. West obediently shifted to a low spade that East won with the queen. Next, he lead a club for West to ruff and then regained the lead with another spade. A second club ruff followed and West ended the bloodbath by cashing the ace of diamonds. Most pairs ended up playing in heart and spade partials with varying results. For this E/W pair, defeating the contract two tricks for a score of +200 earned most of the matchpoints. Of course, there was one E/W pair who reached the cold contract of 4♠ for +620. I don't even want to guess how their auction went.

IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

The three primary signaling methods for the defense are attitude, count, and suit preference. The first two are used on every hand and it's surprising how often suit preference opportunities arise. Take a look at this one.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand #6 Dlr E Vul BOTH	♠ KJ3 ♥ KQ874 ♦ AJ ♣ J76												
♠ A ♥ J5 ♦ Q76542 ♣ Q1085	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ 942 ♥ A10963 ♦ K108 ♣ 92	<table style="margin: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="padding: 0 5px;">West</th> <th style="padding: 0 5px;">North</th> <th style="padding: 0 5px;">East</th> <th style="padding: 0 5px;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 5px;">Pass</td> <td style="padding: 0 5px;">4♠</td> <td style="padding: 0 5px;">All Pass</td> <td style="padding: 0 5px;">2♠</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	West	North	East	South	Pass	4♠	All Pass	2♠		
West	North	East	South										
Pass	4♠	All Pass	2♠										
	♠ Q108765 ♥ 2 ♦ 93 ♣ AK43												

BIDDING: South had a routine weak two bid and North raised to game. This raise is fine with partnerships who employ sound weak two openers, but if your partner is less structured, the North hand should only make a game try.

PLAY: West had no attractive opening lead and finally decided to lead the ace of spades to look at dummy. He saw it might be necessary to switch to a club or a diamond before declarer could establish dummy's heart suit, but which suit should he lead? After some thought he concluded it unlikely the weak two bidder held both club honors so he switched to a club. Declarer won with dummy's jack and it was now easy to draw the remaining trumps and establish a heart honor for a diamond discard. A diamond shift at trick two would have resulted in down one, with declarer losing a trick in each suit.

The chance to succeed was missed at trick one. East should have played the nine of spades to indicate interest in the diamond suit. With club strength, the deuce of spades would be correct. This type of suit preference situation occurs on almost every

IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

with Larry Matheny

As a defender it is important to place the opponents' high cards. Here East knew he could not count on his partner for help so he defended accordingly. Take the East chair and plan your defense.

Scoring: Swiss Teams

Hand #7 Dir S Vul BOTH	♠ K6 ♥ J74 ♦ AJ1065 ♣ 984				
		West	North	East	South
♠ 1054 ♥ 1098652 ♦ 32 ♣ 52	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ AQ982 ♥ 3 ♦ K9 ♣ AJ1076			1NT* Pass 3NT 2NT All Pass
	♠ J73 ♥ AKQ ♦ Q874 ♣ KQ3				

* 15-17 HCP

BIDDING: East had a nice hand but when the auction reached him, he realized bidding would be very dangerous. South, holding a maximum 1NT opener, accepted his partner's invitation to game.

PLAY: Holding such a weak hand, perhaps West should have led a short suit in an attempt to find his partner's strength, but he finally selected the ten of hearts. Declarer won the heart and immediately took the diamond finesse. East won the king and realized if South held the 16-17 points his 3NT promised, West was broke. But, East saw a way to beat the hand...he led a low spade. Declarer won the king in dummy and led a low club. East jumped up with the ace and cashed four more spades to beat the contract by two tricks. This was a team game and at the other table, after winning the king of diamonds, East led a low club hoping to find his partner with an honor. That South easily made his contract with three hearts, four diamonds, and two clubs.

Illini Regional Bridge Tournament

NEW Tuesday-Sunday schedule:

May 23-28, 2023

Holiday Inn, 101 Trade Center Drive, Champaign, Illinois [Map](#)

Please join us for six days of bridge and our special Illini hospitality.

♣ **Novice/Intermediate program** ♣

Four Gold Rush Pairs -- Two-session gold-point events for 0-750 masterpoints. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday.

Bracketed Swiss Teams on Thursday-- Play only against teams in your masterpoint bracket. *Partners and team-mates guaranteed* if you sign in at partnership desk by 10 a.m.

"Lunch & Learn" workshops -- Mini-lessons by expert speakers at 2:30 pm, Wednesday through Saturday.

For students ages 26 and under: Free entries in all events on Thursday. \$5/session entry in all other events.

Flight C masterpoint awards in all open events.

♣ **New schedule:** Two sessions daily, Tuesday through Sunday (the week before Memorial Day). "Daylight" start times (10:30 & 3:00), Wednesday through Sunday. Single-session pair entries always available.

♣ **Non-stop hospitality!** Registration gifts, door prizes, champagne splits & glasses to section winners, *Daily Bulletin*.

Free dessert bar Tuesday night, free lunch Wednesday, continental breakfast every morning. Cash lunch stand daily.

♣ **MORE masterpoints.** Take advantage of the **20-percent masterpoint bonus** now awarded for events at regional tournaments.

♣ **Thursday: Juniors Day.** Full-time students age 26 and under play **FREE** all day. \$5/session student entries for all other events.

♣ **Lou Henson Day:** In memory of the late Lou Henson, who passed away in 2020.

♣ **Saturday: Fighting Illini Fans Day.** \$3 off your morning entry if you wear Illini orange and blue! **Barometer final** in the Open Pairs (10:30 qualifying & 3:00 finals).

♣ **Sunday: FAST Swiss Teams** in memory of our long-time partnership chairman Hugh Williams, who passed away in 2020. Playthrough with free continental breakfast & cash snack bar.

Team events Wednesday through Sunday (stratified or bracketed by team's average masterpoints)

Bracketed Knockout Teams in the "Mini-Soloway" format -- All teams play a two-session round-robin on the first day. The top four teams in each bracket will qualify for the semifinals on the second day.

♣ **Chief Illiniwek KO** -- 10:30 & 3:00, Tuesday & Wednesday.

♣ **OskeeWowWow KO** -- 10:30 & 3:00, Friday & Saturday

Bracketed Swiss Teams-- Thursday (10:30 & 3:00)

Open Swiss Teams-- Sunday (10:30 & TBA)

Stratified Pair Events (stratified by pair's average masterpoints)

Single-session entries always available.

Two-session Stratified Open Pairs -- 10:30 & 3:00, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday.

Two-session Barometer Pairs -- 10:30 & 3:00 Saturday. *Barometer final.*

Strata: A=Open B=0-3500 C=0-1500

Gold Rush Strata: 0-200 / 200-500 / 500-750

All events stratified by pair or team's average masterpoints. KOs may be handicapped.

Vaccinations not required.

Entry fees: \$16/session. \$5/session for full-time students age 25 & under.

Tuesday, May 23

1:00 & 6:30 -- **Chief Illiniwek KO Teams** (2-session round-robin; continues Wednesday)

1:00 & 6:30 -- **"Play for the Pets" Charity Open Pairs** to benefit animal-rescue organizations in central Illinois. Full regional rating. Single-session entries available.

1:00 & 6:30 -- **0-750 Gold Rush Pairs**

9:30 -- Dessert bar (fruit cobbler and ice cream)

Wednesday, May 24 -- Free lunch today

10:30 & 3:00 -- Chief Illiniwek KO Teams (3rd & final sessions)

10:30 & 3:00 -- **Stratified Open Pairs**

10:30 & 3:00 -- **0-750 Gold Rush Pairs**

2:00 -- **Free lunch between sessions**

2:30 -- **"Lunch & Learn":** Winning Swiss-Team Strategies

Thursday, May 25 -- Juniors Day

♣ *Students age 26 & under play FREE today.*

10:30 & 3:00 -- **Bracketed Swiss Teams**

Partners & team-mates guaranteed (sign up at partnership desk by 10:00 am).

2:30 -- "**Lunch & Learn**" workshop

Friday, May 26 -- Lou Henson Day

10:30 & 3:00 -- **OskeeWowWow KO Teams** (2-session round-robin; continues Saturday)

10:30 & 3:00 -- **Lou Henson Memorial Stratified Open Pairs**

10:30 & 3:00 -- **0-750 Gold Rush Pairs**

2:30 -- "**Lunch & Learn**" workshop

Saturday, May 27 -- Fighting Illini Fans Day

♣ *\$3 off your morning entry if you wear Illini orange & blue!*

10:30 & 3:00 -- OskeeWowWow KO (3rd & final sessions)

10:30 & 3:00 -- **Barometer Open Pairs** (qualifying with **barometer final**)

10:30 & 3:00 -- **0-750 Gold Rush Pairs**

2:30 -- "**Lunch & Learn**" workshop

Sunday, May 28

10:30 & TBA -- **Hugh Williams Memorial FAST Swiss Teams** -- On the road by 5:45 pm.

♦ **Partnerships:**

Bob Sievers (217-390-1524) sievers2501@yahoo.com

♦ **Info:**

Karen Walker (217-359-0042) kwbridge@comcast.net



Bloomington-Normal 70% club Year 2022 & 2023 only

2023/4/13	72.22%	Ron Calabrese & Bob Bye(499ers online)
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 TOURNAMENT

Summer Intermediate/Newcomer (I/N) (Non-Life Master) Sectional

(Open only to players with fewer than 500 masterpoints who are not **yet** Life Masters)

Saturday, June 24, 2023

10:00 am First Session 3:00 pm Second Session

Sponsored by Central Illinois Bridge Association Unit 208

First Christian Church (Lower Level) **401 W Jefferson, Bloomington, IL**

Enter building from parking lot on north side. Park on the street or in the lot on the northwest side of Lee and Monroe adjacent to the church.

Please save the parking lot in front of church for those who need assistance.

SILVER POINTS AWARDED FOR EACH SESSION

\$10.00 per session for ACBL players \$14.00 per session for non-ACBL players

Stratifications: The Tournament Director will determine the stratifications in the interest of the game, depending on the number of players registered.



- ▶ Complimentary coffee and snacks will be provided during the Tournament.
- ▶ A light lunch (no drink) will be offered for sale to eat at the church. This will be a chance for you to socialize with other players and meet face to face those you might have only played with online. You may also bring your own lunch to eat with the group.

Revised per Unit 208 and ACBL: Proof of COVID vaccination will not be required.

Unit 208 requests no perfumes or colognes or scented lotions be worn.

ACBL's Zero Tolerance Policy will be enforced.

Tournament Chair: Linda Sloat, lsloat@illinois.edu, 217-649-9002

Partnership Chair: Sandy Hill, shill@prominic.net, 217-840-2859

BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#117 – PRETTY SOON, IT ADDS UP

	♠ QJ432 ♥ 5 ♦ A5 ♣ AKQ52	
♠ K86 ♥ T9743 ♦ K32 ♣ J4	North West East Declarer	♠ AT9 ♥ J62 ♦ T874 ♣ 763
	♠ 75 ♥ AKQ8 ♦ QJ96 ♣ T98	

Sometimes it pays to have a good sense of the ridiculous, witness this hand from a recent team game. N-S declined to admit how they reached 6NT, and given the utter awfulness of their final contract, who could possibly blame them?

A Spade lead would have worked rather well for the defense but, not unreasonably, West started out with the Heart Ten. Now let's see how alert defense by East averted an overtrick!

That opening Heart lead was won by Declarer's Ace. Next came the ♦Q and West probably now regrets that he covered this with the King. Dummy's Ace won the trick and the Clubs were rattled off. West had discarding problems on the run of the Clubs and, with the benefit of hindsight we can see that it was ill-advised of West to pitch a couple of Hearts, but pitch them he did. Next, the Diamond Nine was successfully finessed and, with the Hearts now good, Declarer was up to 12 tricks.

But could he make an overtrick? No, East became the star of the show when, on the last Heart, he pitched away his ♠A! Declarer's last two cards were ♦J6 but East had grimly held on to ♦T8 and the battle for the thirteenth trick was won by East's Diamond Ten. So, only +1440 for N-S, thanks to East's heads-up defense.

"For a moment there I thought you would make all the tricks", mused Dummy.

"Wasn't possible, East defended too well".

"Well, let's hope our team-mates aren't -1470. An IMP here, an IMP there, pretty soon it starts to add up".



#118 – AN EXTRA CHANCE

♠ AK6
♥ T3
♦ J7
♣ QT9764

E-W Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

♠ 87	North	♠ 542				
♥ K542	West	♥ AJ9				
♦ KQ943	East	♦ 8652				
♣ 85	Declarer	♣ K32				
<table border="1"> <tr><td>♠ QJT93</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ Q876</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ AT</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ AJ</td></tr> </table>			♠ QJT93	♥ Q876	♦ AT	♣ AJ
♠ QJT93						
♥ Q876						
♦ AT						
♣ AJ						

The opening lead is the ♦K, won by Declarer's Ace. A Heart is lost to East, but Declarer's hopes of getting two Heart ruffs on the board are dashed when East returns a trump. So much for Plan A. Setting up the Clubs is Plan B, will it succeed?

At first glance it may appear that the only chance is for East to hold the singleton or doubleton Club King. If that is the case then Declarer can cross to the Spade Ace, lead a Club and finesse (assuming that the King does not appear from East). If the Club King comes down in two rounds, and if trumps are 3-2, then the Clubs will run and there will be no fewer than 12 tricks.

As you can see, the Club King does not come down in two rounds. Does this mean the contract fails? Not if Declarer realizes the potential of the Spade Six! That valuable card is a potential Dummy entry if one opponent or the other has Eight-Seven doubleton of trumps. And just as valuable as the Six is Declarer's precious Three!

When East returns that trump at Trick 3, Declarer plays the *Queen* from hand and overtakes in Dummy. Now the Club finesse works and the Club Ace is cashed. The Spade Jack is overtaken in Dummy, and a Club is ruffed *high*. Now Dummy's Clubs are good and, thanks to West's doubleton Eight-Seven of trumps, the Spade Six is an entry to those Clubs. Well done, Declarer! If she had carelessly played the Three on the first round of trumps she would not have reaped the benefit of her extra chance.



#119 – THE ONLY CHANCE

	♠ 93 ♥ T98 ♦ AK92 ♣ 7652	
♠ JT7 ♥ J52 ♦ QT854 ♣ A4	North West East Declarer	♠ Q4 ♥ AQ7643 ♦ 7 ♣ KQJT
	♠ AK8652 ♥ K ♦ J63 ♣ 983	

Suppose that you are playing in a duplicate (matchpoint) event. Nobody is vulnerable and E-W bid up to 3♥. Now N-S compete with 3♠ and that gets doubled. Playing in Hearts, E-W would probably make 9 tricks, and that's -140 for N-S. But here N-S are in 3♠ doubled and will get a good result only if they can hold their losses to down one, scoring -100. Down two for -300 would be very bad indeed. How do you escape for down one?

Playing 3rd and 5th leads, West starts out with the Heart Two to the Ace, and East shifts to the ♣K. West overtakes with the Ace and the defense proceeds to play out all four rounds of Clubs. As Declarer, what do you play on the fourth round of Clubs? Remember, you have already lost four tricks and can lose only one more if you are to escape with a good board.

Ruffing the Club high cannot be right, that will ensure that the defense scores two trump tricks. Nor can it be right to pitch a Diamond, that is also a guaranteed down two. Perhaps surprisingly, the only chance is to ruff low. Your hope is that West has three trumps and that therefore, if he overruffs, it will be with a natural trump trick. So, that's what you do, West does overruff, the return of the ♥J is ruffed and trumps fall in two rounds.

So far, so good, but you still have to bring in the Diamonds for no losers if you are to accomplish your goal. Does somebody have the doubleton Queen? Not possible! The opening lead tells you that West started with three Hearts, and the play tells you that he also started with two Clubs and three Spades. That leaves five Diamonds with West and one with East. Therefore, the percentage play in Diamonds is to run the Jack (in case East has the singleton Ten). If West covers with the Queen you can finesse the Nine later. "Down one is good bridge" as they always say.



#120 – DOUBLE END-PLAY

	♠ A8 ♥ K987 ♦ AJT8 ♣ AJ8	
♠ KJT6532 ♥ J6 ♦ 32 ♣ K3	North West East Declarer	♠ 9 ♥ Q53 ♦ 9764 ♣ 97652
	♠ Q74 ♥ AT42 ♦ KQ5 ♣ QT4	

E-W Vulnerable

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

This is not a good slam! After a Diamond opening lead, even if trumps are 3-2 and the Club finesse works, it still looks as if Declarer must lose a Heart and a Spade for down one. How does Declarer avoid that Spade loser?

remove all of East's safe exit cards. At Trick 2 he takes the Club finesse, then cashes the ♥K, back to hand with the ♥A, and another Club. After Declarer has taken his minor suit winners, the ♠A is cashed, at which point East is down to the ♥Q and two Clubs. Declarer now throws in East with a trump, and East is forced to return a Club, allowing Declarer a so-called "ruff and sluff", whereby one hand pitches a (Spade) loser and the other one takes the ruff. That's a pretty elimination play for 12 tricks.

Strangely enough, if South declares 6NT, there is a totally different elimination play, this time directed against West. Say that West leads a Diamond as before. Declarer wins, finesses the Club, returns to hand with another Diamond, and plays off the rest of the Clubs and Diamonds. By now, West is down to ♥J6 and ♠KJT5. Dummy's ♥K is cashed and a Heart is run around to West's Jack. West must return a Spade and that gives Declarer the 12th trick. West might try and wriggle out of the end-play by throwing his ♥J under the ♥K, but to no avail as that only serves to set up a Heart finesse against East.





Please see schedules on page 1



**AMERICAN CONTRACT
BRIDGE LEAGUE**

— DEALING INFINITE POSSIBILITIES —

