

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, $12: 30 \mathrm{pm}-299 \mathrm{ers}$ only pairs(if attendance warrants)
Wednesdays, $12: 30 \mathrm{pm}$ - 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 $2^{\text {nd }} \boldsymbol{\&} 4^{\text {th }}-$ open $1^{\text {st }}-3^{\text {rd }}-5$ th
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.

4,824.51 Steve Babin
3,665.30 Zach Freehill
3,475.15 Eunice Patton
3,274.66 Cindy Moore
2,620.83 Mike Tomlianovich
2,459.31 Ann Schuyler
2,436.57 Lori Moore
1,950.08 Ron Emmett
1,874.34 Joyce Clay
1,656.64 Jeff Furler
1,344.72 Steve Wulfers
1,272.27 Jeanne Strand 880.08 Barb Neuges
879.96 Ray Dostal 870.03 Dave Freehill 837.79 Sallie Boge
743.13 Fred Spitzzeri
647.64 Larry Ziegler
603.85 Mary Cralley
518.46 Chris Zogg
509.93 John Cralley
494.45 Rick Dalton
461.91 Gene Byers
430.34 Pat Lebeck
393.18 Marilyn Byers

## more players:

13,717.40 Chris Benson-LeRoy
6,187.48 Larry Matheny-Ft Collins CO
5,956.88 Ron Sholes-Springfield
5,675.15 John Seng-Champaign
4,750.77 Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
3,973.95 JoAnn Schroeder-Appleton, WI
3,898.87 Terry Goodykoontz
3,860.71 Mary Allen-Peoria
3,832.52 Carole Sholes-Springfield
2,756.11 Georgia Heth-Morton
2,713.91 Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
2,654.93 Margaret Hansell-Champaign
2,572.47 Chuck Young-Peoria
2,459.04 John Maloney-Spring Hill,FL
2,096.48 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
1,979.34 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
1,477.93 Wes Seitz-Champaign
1,181.23 Bill Strauss-Urbana
1005.55 Bill Thompson-Ft Myers,FL
1002.64 Darryl Bremner-Clinton 803.78 Carole Miller-Champaign 749.39 Melda Richardson-California
702.16 Connie Tucker-Champaign 624.90 Lane O'Connor-Naperville
613.53 Kirk Kimmel-Peoria 609.34 John Ford-Harvard,MA 475.77 Rich Hagenhauer-Peoria 432.04 Lynn Steffen-El Paso


IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny


The next 4 columns appear on the next 4 pages:

## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY <br> with Larry Matheny

As much fun as it is to take a successful finesse, it feels even better when you avoid a losing one. Take a look at this example.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)


BIDDING: Many people would not open the South hand but today's style is to bid aggressively. The 2NT bid was a forcing spade raise and South tried to slow his partner down by showing a minimum hand with his leap to 4 S . But, North wasn't to be stopped and used Blackwood to bid the slam.

PLAY: West led the king of diamonds and declarer saw a diamond loser plus a possible loser in the club suit. Rather than rely on a $50 \%$ club finesse, South saw a play that would ensure the contract. He won the ace of diamonds and played a heart to his ace followed by a heart ruff in dummy. Then a spade to his hand to draw the trumps and another heart ruff in dummy. A second spade to his hand allowed him to ruff his last heart in dummy. Now he led a diamond and West was end played. His choices were to lead a club away from his king or give a ruff and a sluff allowing declarer to discard his club loser.

This simple elimination play was missed by many of the declarers. Most weren't in slam but overtricks are important in pairs events and making only five was a poor result.

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## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

It's surprising so many declarers forget the auction after the opening lead is made. Here is a hand where the declarer not only remembered but took advantage.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

| Hand \#9 | - Q74 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Dir N -84 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Vul BOTH | - AKQ97 |  |  |  |  |
|  | -983 | West | North | East | South |
| - J632 | - 10 |  | Pass | 1 | 1 |
| - J10762 | - KQ953 |  |  | 1 | 14 |
| - J8 | - 1052 | Pass | 20 | $3 \%$ | 4, |
| - 54 | - AQ107 | All |  |  |  |
|  |  | Pass |  |  |  |
|  | - AK985 |  |  |  |  |
|  | - A |  |  |  |  |
|  | -643 |  |  |  |  |
|  | \% KJ62 |  |  |  |  |

BIDDING: North held a great dummy for a spade contract so she cue bid the opponent's suit. She was a passed hand so this showed a hand worth $10-12$ points in support of spades. East's bid of 3* was bold and unnecessary. After North's cue bid, there were few cards left for her partner to hold so a quiet pass would have been better. South had a good overcall and accepted the invitation to game.

PLAY: Declarer won the heart opening lead and took stock of the hand. With East promising nine or more cards in the round suits, it was unlikely trumps would divide 3-2. Declarer also noted East probably held only four clubs or West might have lead her singleton. Accordingly, at trick two he played the spade king from his hand. Noting the ten from East, declarer followed with a spade to dummy's seven. Next he unblocked the spade queen and led a club toward his hand. East rose with the ace and tried to cash a heart. South ruffed, drew the last trump, and discarded his two losing clubs on the diamond suit. Making six earned all of the matchpoints.

South did nothing extraordinary; he just listened to the auction and made logical assumptions. If East had started with the doubleton J10 of spades, declarer would still make his contract. However, if he played the queen of spades on the second round and East showed out, declarer would have to be very careful to succeed. Please note that it was East's second call that enabled declarer to achieve this result.

The principle of "restrictive choice" was also a factor in South's decision to play for a 4-1 spade break. In theory, holding J10 doubleton, East could choose to play either card. Holding only

## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

Defense can be difficult but sometimes just a little reasoning will solve the problem. Take a look at this example.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

| Hand \#10 | - J7 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | - 9642 |  |  |  |  |
| Dir E <br> Vul BOTH | - J973 | West | North | East 1 | South 1. |
|  | * K94 |  |  |  |  |
| - 654 | - A10 | Pass | Pass |  | RDBL |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Q75 } \\ & \bullet \text { K106 } \\ & \bullet \text { J1075 } \end{aligned}$ | - K83 |  |  | DBL |  |
|  | - AQ542 | 2 | Pass | Pass | 2 |
|  | -863 |  |  |  |  |
|  | - KQ9832 | All |  |  |  |
|  | - AJ10 | Pass |  |  |  |
|  | -8 |  |  |  |  |
|  | - AQ2 |  |  |  |  |

BIDDING: After a routine opening bid, when South's 1 overcall came back around, East made a re-opening double. This did not show extra values but was necessary in case West held a spade stack and wanted to defend. It is an important that partnerships who use the negative double remember the importance of this. South's redouble showed a maximum overcall and the auction quickly ended at the two-level.

PLAY: The opening lead was a diamond followed by a second one ruffed by declarer. South saw the contract was in no danger but this was a pairs event so he looked for overtricks. His loser count was one spade, one diamond, and two possible hearts. The bidding told him that at least one of the heart honors was on his right but the king of clubs was the only obvious entry to dummy. To solve this dilemma, he led the spade queen from his hand. East couldn't wait to win with his ace and lead another diamond. Declarer ruffed, led a spade to dummy's jack, and followed with a low heart to his ten. West won and switched to clubs but South won this in dummy and led another heart to his jack. He now had ten tricks.

You no doubt noticed that East must duck the first spade lead in order to limit declarer's access to dummy. With only one entry, South must lose a second heart trick. When this hand was played in a local game, one N/S pair bid and made 4 , one went +500 defending, six made ten tricks in a spade part score, and only five pairs held South to nine tricks in spades. As we've seen, without an unlikely heart opening lead, South should be held to nine tricks. It isn't that difficult.

## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

Everyone knows defense can be difficult. To be successful, you must look at all of the possibilities. It also helps to allow your partner to cooperate.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)


BIDDING: After hearing South overcall, North bid 2 to show an invitational hand in support of hearts. South counted his 15 high card points and jumped to game. As you can see, he held a lot of "soft" queens and jacks.

PLAY: West led the ten of spades and East quickly won the top two tricks. Knowing declarer held the spade queen, East led a third round hoping West could overruff dummy. South was able to win the trick, draw trumps, and discard two clubs on dummy's good diamonds. If East had just played the ace of clubs at trick three, West would have encouraged with the eight and the defense would have collected the first four tricks. If West did not hold the club king and could overruff dummy, he would have discouraged clubs and East could lead a third spade.

South should not accept the invitation to game. His honor holding outside of the heart suit was poor and he should not count the spade queen as it will rarely be of help to him.

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

| 2023/5/11 | 76.07\% | Lori Moore \& Cindy Moore(BBO speedball) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2023/5/1 | 72.62\% | Eunice Patton \& Steve Babin |
| 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 duplica |



## Summer Intermediate/Newcomer ( $1 / \mathrm{N}$ ) (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.

$$
\rightarrow A V A \rightarrow A V A \rightarrow A V Q
$$

- 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, Isloat@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

\#121 - MR \& MRS SMITH

|  | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { QJ3 } \\ & \text { \& } 3 \\ & \text { T4 } \\ & \text { \& AKJT982 } \end{aligned}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { T96 } \\ & \vee 987 \\ & \vee \text { Q765 } \\ & \sim 543 \end{aligned}$ | North Mrs Mr Smith Declarer | $\begin{aligned} & \text { A52 } \\ & \text { AQT654 } \\ & \text { KJ32 } \end{aligned}$ |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { AK74 } \\ & \bullet \text { KJ2 } \\ & \text { A98 } \\ & + \text { Q76 } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |

Both Vulnerable
South West North East
1NT Pass 3NT Pass
Pass Pass
Playing bridge is a great activity to enjoy with one's spouse. However, some bridge Clubs have a Mr. and Mrs. Smith in their ranks, and perhaps these couples are temperamentally better suited to chess or backgammon.

At a Club duplicate the entire N-S field was having a bad day and missed the lay-down slam. Instead, they played in 3NT making the obvious 12 tricks, except at the table where a tricky Declarer scored an extra trick from an unlikely source.

Mrs. Smith knew that, after this auction, the lead of a major suit is usually called for. The $T$ was the obvious choice and Declarer won that with Dummy's Queen. Declarer now rattled off Dummy's Clubs, throwing from his hand two Diamonds, the $¥ J$ and the $\vee K$ (cunningly keeping the Heart Two!).

Next, Declarer cashed Spades and the defense lapsed into auto-pilot mode. Declarer seemed to be out of Hearts and so they both felt compelled to hang on to Diamonds. On the last Spade, Mr. Smith, who by now was down to $\vee \mathrm{A}$ and $\downarrow \mathrm{KJ}$, tossed away the $\vee \mathrm{A}$, wondering why Declarer was wasting time playing out the hand. At Trick 12, Declarer cashed the $\uparrow \mathrm{A}$, and Mr. Smith leaned forward to claim Trick 13 with his $₫ \mathrm{~K}$. But Declarer rather took the wind out of Mr. Smith's sails by (somewhat mischievously) announcing "The board's good". And so it was, as the sneaky Heart Two was led to Dummy's Three for the $13^{\text {th }}$ trick.


## \#122 - IMPROVING THE ODD

|  | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { KJ } \\ & \text { \& AQ83 } \\ & 872 \\ & + \text { AT93 } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { Q9653 } \\ & \vee 742 \\ & \text { J4 } \\ & \leftarrow \text { Q82 } \end{aligned}$ | North West East Declarer | - AT74 <br> $\bullet J$ <br> - AQT93 <br> - J64 |
|  | - 82 <br> - KT965 <br> - K65 <br> - K75 |  |



E-W appear well-matched, because East bids most conservatively (he didn't open and he didn't compete to 34) whereas West seems to bid a lot (witness his 1a call).

The $\downarrow$ opening lead was taken by East's Ace, and the $\$ Q$ played to Declarer's King. Trumps were drawn in three rounds, and with a Club and a Diamond still to be lost, Declarer concluded that a successful Spade guess was required to bring this one home. She'd just finished reading Lawrence's "Counting at Bridge", so she put her new-found technique to work. East had shown up with $\uparrow A Q$ and $\upharpoonright J$, added to which he might also have a Club honor. With all that, and the $\uparrow \mathrm{A}$, surely East would have opened the bidding instead of passing in first seat. So, with a high degree of confidence, she led a Spade to the King and East's surprising Ace. Down one.

It was unfortunate that Declarer's bedtime reading had not been "End-Plays for the Improving Player". In that case, after drawing trumps, she would have cashed the K and led a Club to the Ten and East's Jack. East could cash the $\$ T$, but then had no safe exit ... a Spade return would spare Declarer the guess ... and a Club return would allow Declarer to pitch a Spade on the fourth round of Clubs. Making 9 tricks.

It's true that playing on Clubs was not a sure thing. West might have held \& QJx, in which case he would split his honors and win the third round of the suit. Now West will lead a low Spade and Declarer can revert to her counting activities (without a happy ending, as it happens).


|  | $$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { QT843 } \\ & \vee 2 \\ & \text { Q4 } \\ & + \text { A7432 } \end{aligned}$ | North West East Declarer | $\begin{aligned} & \text { \& A965 } \\ & \bullet \text { J986 } \\ & \& 875 \\ & \leftarrow 95 \end{aligned}$ |
|  | - KJ2 <br> - AKQ5 <br> - J <br> - KQJT8 |  |


| E-W Vulnerable |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| South | West | North | East |
|  |  | 3 | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Some players don't approve of preemptive bids when holding a 4-card major, pointing out that it risks missing (in this case) a 4-4 Heart fit. Others will say that North's so-called Heart suit is pitifully weak, and surely that long, strong minor needs to be bid.

On the actual deal, North's 3 preempt got N-S to a dubious 3NT when 4 was indeed a superior contract. Against 3NT, the opening lead was a Spade to East's Ace, then a Spade to Declarer's Jack and West's Queen, followed by a third Spade. On the second and third Spades, Dummy pitched a Club and a Diamond (a Heart could not be spared as the $4^{\text {th }}$ Heart is a potential entry).

After winning the third Spade trick, how would you play the Diamond suit? Would you finesse against the Queen, or would you play for the drop? When the hand was played, our Declarer knew that with an 8-card fit, the Diamond finesse was the percentage play, so he successfully ran the Jack. That held, but the bad news was that Hearts were 4-1, so Dummy had no entry and the good Diamonds were stranded.

Declarer goofed. He should have cashed two high Hearts first ... if that suit split 3-2 then he could take the Diamond finesse, the most likely way to bring in the suit ... but when Hearts were $4-1$, the lack of Dummy entries meant that he must rely on the singleton or doubleton $\$ Q$ to make his contract. That would have been 10 tricks, just like those who declared the superior $4 \vee$ contract. Does this deal settle the debate about preempting with a 4 -card major? Not at all, it merely tells us that rotten contracts sometimes make, especially when played correctly.

## \#124 - A "FREE" FINESSE

|  | $\rightarrow$ AJT <br> - A6543 <br> - AK3 <br> \& K7 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $$ | North <br> West East <br> Declarer | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Q854 } \\ & \vee \text { Q2 } \\ & \text { QT54 } \\ & \sim \text { A84 } \end{aligned}$ |
|  | - K6 <br> - T9 <br> - 9872 <br> - QJT92 |  |


| E-W Vulnerable |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| South | West | North | East |
|  |  | 1४ | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 3NT | Pass |
| Pass | Pass |  |  |

When West led a Spade against 3NT, she offered a "free finesse", allowing Declarer to score three Spade tricks without having to guess which defender held the Queen. But, in actual fact, that finesse came with a hefty price tag.
"How kind of West to lead a Spade", thought Declarer as he played Dummy's Jack, covered by the Queen and the King. Having ensured three Spade tricks, Declarer then paused to look at the whole hand. But it was a bit late for that, wasn't it?

At this point, Declarer could count three Spades, one Heart, and two Diamonds, which got him up to six, so he looked to the Club suit to make up the shortfall, leading the $\$ \mathrm{~K}$ at Trick 2. But East didn't have to be a genius to duck this, killing Declarer's hopes in that suit. His last hope was a 3-3 Heart break, but that failed too, and Declarer (deservedly) went down in a cold contract.

Declarer would have made his contract if he had given up his free finesse in exchange for setting up the Club suit. He wins the opening lead with Dummy's Ace (goodbye, third Spade trick), and leads the $\$ \mathrm{~K}$ (hello, second, third and fourth Club tricks, as the a K provides an entry to Declarer's hand). Nine easy tricks for those Declarers who paused to think at Trick 1.


## Please see schedules on page 1



