



# Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 25 Number 8 – August, 2023



## August 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(if attendance warrants)**

**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 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 6/7/2023 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only  
paid up ACBL members only



- 1     **4,906.65 Steve Babin**
- 2     **3,687.39 Zach Freehill**
- 3     **3,504.32 Eunice Patton**
- 4     **3,311.85 Cindy Moore**
- 5     **2,642.63 Mike Tomlianovich**
- 6     **2,472.04 Ann Schuyler**
- 7     **2,452.49 Lori Moore**
- 8     **1,959.10 Ron Emmett**
- 9     **1,918.59 Joyce Clay**
- 10    **1,676.20 Jeff Furler**
- 11    **1,364.14 Steve Wulfers**
- 12    **1,272.27 Jeanne Strand**
- 13    **888.69 Ray Dostal**
- 14    **886.70 Barb Neuges**
- 15    **874.83 Dave Freehill**
- 16    **842.08 Sallie Boge**
- 17    **751.90 Fred Spitzzeri**
- 18    **667.42 Larry Ziegler**
- 19    **603.85 Mary Cralley**
- 20    **536.22 Chris Zogg**
- 21    **517.78 Rick Dalton**
- 22    **509.93 John Cralley**
- 23    **471.50 Gene Byers**
- 24    **434.57 Pat Lebeck**
- 25    **402.13 Marilyn Byers**

## more players:

- 13,799.46 Chris Benson-LeRoy**
- 6,227.79 Larry Matheny-Ft Collins CO**
- 5,979.95 Ron Sholes-Springfield**
- 5,714.75 John Seng-Champaign**
- 4,815.66 Leonard Kaufman-Peoria**
- 4,027.42 JoAnn Schroeder-Appleton,WI**
- 3,915.45 Terry Goodykoontz**
- 3,904.72 Mary Allen-Peoria**
- 3,846.65 Carole Sholes-Springfield**
- 2,777.56 Georgia Heth-Morton**
- 2,733.17 Hank Hoffman-East Peoria**
- 2,654.93 Margaret Hansell-Champaign**
- 2,601.52 Chuck Young-Peoria**
- 2,496.70 John Maloney-Champaign**
- 2,106.16 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon**
- 2,010.19 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria**
- 1,497.42 Wes Seitz-Champaign**
- 1,196.80 Bill Strauss-Urbana**
- 1,027.72 Darryl Bremner-Clinton**
- 1,027.59 Bill Thompson-Ft Myers,FL**
- 803.78 Carole Miller-Champaign**
- 760.22 Melda Richardson-California**
- 733.12 Connie Tucker-Champaign**
- 624.90 Lane O'Connor-Naperville**
- 623.39 John Ford-Harvard,MA**
- 618.18 Kirk Kimmel-Peoria**
- 483.82 Rich Hagenhauer-Peoria**
- 448.73 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

It is important to watch every spot card that is played. Here is an example of how easy it is to miss one.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

<b>Hand #16</b> <b>Dir E</b> <b>Vul E/W</b>	♠ AQ82 ♥ A10732 ♦ AK9 ♣ 7					
♠ 743 ♥ 6 ♦ 10764 ♣ QJ932	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ K965 ♥ Q ♦ J82 ♣ AK1085	<b>West</b>  Pass	<b>North</b>  4♥	<b>East</b>  1♣ All Pass	<b>South</b>  2♥
	♠ J10 ♥ KJ9854 ♦ Q53 ♣ 64					

**BIDDING:** After South's weak jump overcall, North had an easy raise to game.

**PLAY:** West led the queen of clubs followed by a low diamond. Declarer saw his contract was not in jeopardy but this was a pairs event so overtricks were important. The only other possible loser was a spade and from the auction South knew the spade king was in the East hand. His best play was to try to sneak one past his opponent. He drew trumps and led the jack of spades to the ace followed by a low spade toward his hand. East had not been paying enough attention and wasn't sure what spade card his partner had played. He finally decided that holding two spades, declarer would have taken the finesse so he played low and South wrapped up twelve tricks for a great result. West did play the three of spades on the first lead of the suit. With the spade deuce visible in dummy, this lowest card definitely showed an odd number but East was not concentrating. In a matchpoint event, an overtrick can be worth more than a grand slam that everyone bids.

Proper carding is difficult but you and your partner need to agree on when to show attitude and when to show count.

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## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

Some hands present several options to declarer and he must weigh each of them before deciding which path to take. A lot of declarers went wrong with this hand.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

<b>Hand #17</b> <b>Dir N</b> <b>Vul E/W</b>	♠ KQ107 ♥ K83 ♦ K7 ♣ AKJ5					
♠ A94 ♥ A64 ♦ J86543 ♣ 4	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ J65 ♥ 10752 ♦ Q10 ♣ 9763	<b>West</b>   Pass	<b>North</b> 1♣ 3NT	<b>East</b> Pass All Pass	<b>South</b> 1NT
	♠ 832 ♥ QJ9 ♦ A92 ♣ Q1082					

**BIDDING:** North was too strong to open 1NT but had an easy raise to game.

**PLAY:** West led his fourth best diamond and declarer won the second round in dummy. The carding told declarer that West had either five or six diamonds so the contract was in danger. If the two missing aces were split, South would have to guess which ace West held and attack it. Then (if the diamonds were 5-3) when East won the other ace, he would have no diamond to return. If East held both aces, there was no problem but if West held both aces, declarer could go down. Then declarer saw a possible solution...he came to his hand with a club and led a low spade. When the king won, declarer switched to hearts and easily wrapped up nine tricks. If West had gone up with the spade ace to lead another diamond, declarer could still make the hand if the spades were 3-3 or the ace of hearts was with East. Note that playing hearts first will not work.

In a local game, seven pairs went down while six made the contract. But four of those six successful pairs made overtricks so I can only assume it was played by North and East did not find a diamond lead.

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## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

Some bridge addicts have been known to dream about hands they may or may not have played. This happened to me last night. Was this a pleasant dream or a nightmare?

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

<b>Hand #18</b> <b>Dir E</b> <b>Vul E/W</b>	♠ AK42 ♥ 976 ♦ A9 ♣ K1053	♠ 753 ♥ KJ ♦ KJ10654 ♣ A7	♠ J10986 ♥ A8432 ♦ 8 ♣ 92	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>											
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">West</th> <th style="width: 15%;">North</th> <th style="width: 15%;">East</th> <th style="width: 15%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">           ♠ Q            ♥ Q105            ♦ Q732            ♣ QJ865         </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">           2♦            4♦            Pass         </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">           DBL            Pass            4♠         </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">           1♦            3♦            Pass            All            Pass         </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">           Pass            3♠            4♥         </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>							West	North	East	South	♠ Q ♥ Q105 ♦ Q732 ♣ QJ865	2♦ 4♦ Pass	DBL Pass 4♠	1♦ 3♦ Pass All Pass	Pass 3♠ 4♥
	West	North	East	South											
♠ Q ♥ Q105 ♦ Q732 ♣ QJ865	2♦ 4♦ Pass	DBL Pass 4♠	1♦ 3♦ Pass All Pass	Pass 3♠ 4♥											

**BIDDING:** The bidding was bold to say the least. In my dream, I was North and made a simple takeout double that seemed to excite South. I was surprised we weren't doubled.

**PLAY:** West led a diamond and all of a sudden I was sitting in the East chair. Declarer won the ace of diamonds and played the ace of spades. Next there was another diamond from dummy ruffed by South. He then drew trumps followed by the ace of hearts. I was alert and did not want to be end-played so I dropped the king under the ace. I knew that if declarer held the queen of hearts, he would have finessed. South next led a low heart from his hand and I found myself in the West chair. I quickly rose with the queen of hearts to swallow up my partner's jack. I had always wanted an opportunity to use the "crocodile coup" and it finally presented itself. I then cashed the ten of hearts and led the queen of clubs to beat the contract. Note that if I don't rise with the heart queen, my partner is end-played into leading a club or giving a ruff-sluff to declarer.

Just as I was waiting for partner, the opponents, and the many kibitzers to applaud my magnificent defense, I woke up. I knew I had played the hand in the evening session so I found my convention card to see the actual result. Had I really defended so well? The answer staring back at me was that I was North and had doubled 4♦ and they made it for -710 and a zero.

Oh well, only three more hours until the alarm. If I could only get back to sleep.

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## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

The splinter bid is a valuable tool. With one bid you can show support for partner, game or greater strength, and shortness in the bid suit. North used the splinter here to reach a good slam with only 27 high card points in the combined hands.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand #19 Dir E Vul E/W	♠ J75 ♥ J ♦ AKQJ84 ♣ QJ6					
		♠ 864 ♥ Q109654 ♦ ♣ K1085	<b>West</b> Pass Pass Pass	<b>North</b> 3♥* 5♣ 6♦	<b>East</b> Pass Pass All Pass	<b>South</b> 1♦ 4♦ 5NT
	♠ KQ32 ♥ K72 ♦ 95 ♣ 9742  ♠ A109 ♥ A83 ♦ 107632 ♣ A3					

\*Splinter bid

**BIDDING:** I was sitting in the North chair and after hearing partner's 1♦ bid, I decided the two most important messages I could give partner were good diamonds and heart shortness. We play four of the agreed minor is Roman Keycard Blackwood so my 5♣ response showed two keycards plus the queen of diamonds. South next bid 5NT to see if I had an outside king and my 6♦ bid said no.

**PLAY:** West was reluctant to give up a trick so he led a trump. My partner quickly realized he would have to lose at least one spade so the club finesse must be on. He won the diamond in dummy, drew another round of trumps, and led the queen of clubs ducked by East. Another club went to the ace followed by the ace of hearts and a heart ruffed in dummy. Dummy's club jack was now ruffed in hand and his last heart was ruffed in dummy. Partner now end-played West by leading a low spade to the nine. West had to return a spade or give a ruff-sluff.

South could have taken two spade finesses needing only one to succeed but by first eliminating the round suits, he guaranteed the contract. This is another example of taking the finesse you must but avoiding all others.

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## **Bloomington-Normal 70% club Years 2022 & 2023 only**

<b>2023/6/26</b>	<b>70.35%</b>	<b>Kay Ann Criswell &amp; Becky O'Donnell(social meets duplicate)</b>
<b>2023/6/5</b>	<b>71.25%</b>	<b>Dick Dubroff &amp; Mike Gross(social meets duplicate)</b>
<b>2023/5/11</b>	<b>76.07%</b>	<b>Lori Moore &amp; Cindy Moore(BBO speedball)</b>
<b>2023/5/1</b>	<b>72.62%</b>	<b>Eunice Patton &amp; Steve Babin</b>
<b>2023/4/13</b>	<b>72.22%</b>	<b>Ron Calabrese &amp; Bob Bye(499ers online)</b>
<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 meets 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 meets 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



### #129 – SENDING A MESSAGE

	♠ A ♥ T94 ♦ QJT63 ♣ KJT4	
♠ 9872 ♥ J62 ♦ A ♣ Q9865	North West      East Declarer	♠ 53 ♥ KQ875 ♦ 754 ♣ A32
	♠ KQJT64 ♥ A3 ♦ K982 ♣ 7	

#### Both Vulnerable

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

Sometimes the winning defense is obvious to one defender but not to the other, and in such cases it behooves the defender who is in the know to help out Partner as much as possible. Today's West missed such an opportunity.

Against 4♠, West led the ♦A. He shifted to the Heart Two and East's Queen was taken by Declarer's Ace. At this point Declarer was home free if only she could draw trumps, but there were transportation problems. After playing a Spade to Dummy's Ace, she had no fast way back to hand to draw the remaining trumps, so she exited with a Heart, won by East's King.

To West it was obvious that East should give him a Diamond ruff. But it wasn't obvious to East. No doubt he should have figured it out, but he had this fixed idea in his head that West had led a Diamond from AKx or AKxx. So, seeing no rush for the defense to cash its winners, East exited with a Heart. Declarer gratefully ruffed that, drew trumps, pitched the Club loser on the Diamonds, and claimed 11 tricks.

That was not an impressive performance by East but West could have made things crystal clear. That's right, when the second round of Hearts was played, West should have dumped his Heart Jack under East's King! This clever play means that Dummy's Heart Ten is now good, and therefore a Heart return is most definitely not required. The fog lifts, East now knows what to do and the defense continues: Diamond ruff, Club to the Ace, Diamond ruff. Down two!



## #130 – PERILOUSLY HIGH

♠ T2
♥ JT43
♦ KJ93
♣ T95

### E-W Vulnerable

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

♠ K9	North	♠ 87643
♥ K6	West	♥ 72
♦ Q854	East	♦ A72
♣ AQ764	Declarer	♣ J32
♠ AQJ5		
♥ AQ985		
♦ T6		
♣ K8		

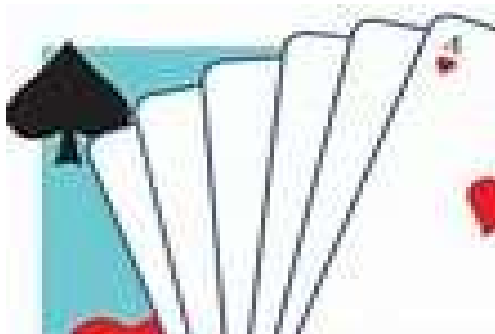
South's game-try got N-S perilously high, and with the Clubs badly placed, and with both major suit finesses destined to lose, it seemed that 3♥ would be going down one. But, of course, one way to avoid losing finesses is simply not to take them.

Against 3♥, West started with a low Diamond, low from Dummy, won by East's Ace. Now the defense played Clubs and Declarer ruffed the third round. Pausing to take stock, Declarer reflected upon the auction. West had made a vulnerable two-level overcall and probably had both major suit Kings. How about East? He had shown up with the ♦A and the ♣J, surely if he had an additional King he would have raised to 3♣. Yes, all the signs were that both major suit finesses would fail.

So, trusting her judgment, Declarer decided to play West for a singleton or doubleton Heart King. After ruffing the third Club she plunked down the ♥A, but West did not oblige with a singleton King. Next, Declarer removed West's safe exit cards by finessing the ♦J, cashing Dummy's ♦K and ruffing a Diamond. Now, when Declarer exited with a trump, West was end-played. Upon winning his ♥K West had the unpleasant choice of leading away from the ♠K, or conceding a ruff and discard by leading a Club.

A strange hand! Declarer had potential losers in both majors but declined to take the finesses ... but she *did* take the Diamond finesse when there were no remaining losers in the suit!

**Post Script:** West missed a chance to spoil Declarer's fun. After the defense takes the ♦A and two Clubs, if West reverts to Diamonds then Declarer can no longer extract all of West's exit cards and will be down one.



A TALE OF TWO SUITS

	♠ AQ ♥ A72 ♦ 9432 ♣ 6542	
♠ T8652 ♥ K6 ♦ A876 ♣ AJ	<i>North</i> West      East Declarer	♠ 9743 ♥ 9543 ♦ Q ♣ T973
	♠ KJ ♥ QJT8 ♦ KJT5 ♣ KQ8	

**Both Vulnerable**

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Thanks in large part to the horrible Spade duplication (where ten HCP bring in two measly tricks), 3NT needs some luck. And, after the opening lead of the Spade Five, 3NT also requires careful play in Diamonds and Hearts. Can you make nine tricks?

Your best chance for nine tricks is to score four Hearts and three Diamonds. How do you play the Diamonds? Yes, you must take the tiny precaution of leading a *low* Diamond from the board. The trap to be avoided is running the Nine, that would be fatal in the actual case where East has the singleton Queen and where West's spots would prevent the suit from running. So, Dummy's ♠Q wins the opening lead, and a low Diamond is led, to the Queen, King and Ace.

West returns the Spade Two, again won on the board. You get back to hand with a Diamond (East pitching a Club), but refrain from cashing the two other Diamond winners, they may provide some useful back and forth later in the play. Instead, you lead the ♥Q, covered by the King and Ace. Back to hand with the ♥J, both defenders following, but neither dropping the all-important Nine.

Where is that Nine? You don't know for sure, so you will go with the odds. West's opening lead was the Five, and he later played the Two, so he appears to have started with a minimum of five Spades. West also started with four Diamonds, that's nine of his cards accounted for. By contrast, East started with a total of only five cards in those suits. Clearly, East has more room in her hand for Hearts, and the odds tell you to finesse against East for the Heart Nine rather than to play for the drop. So, you cash the Diamond Ten, cross to Dummy's carefully preserved Nine, and finesse the Heart Eight. Nine well-earned tricks!



## #132 – WORST-CASE SCENARIO

♠ AK82  
♥ 952  
♦ Q5  
♣ QJ42

North  
West East  
Declarer

♠ 75  
♥ A643  
♦ AKJ42  
♣ T3

♠ QT943  
♥ KJ  
♦ 6  
♣ K9865

### E-W Vulnerable

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

Put yourself in Declarer's seat, with only the N-S hands in view. West leads the Heart Seven, East plays the King. Looks like two Spades, a Heart and five Diamonds will get you to eight. What can possibly go wrong?

Many Declarers would jump right in, grabbing the ♥A, and rattling off the Diamonds. But, as it happens, they don't rattle and the 5-1 split derails the

contract. Declarer cannot cash four Diamonds, that would set up the defense's sixth trick ... and if he cashes only three Diamonds there is no way to come to eight tricks.

When things look easy, Declarer is advised to consider the worst-case scenario. In this case it is a bad Diamond break, giving Declarer only seven top tricks. Can Declarer do something about that? Yes, before going all-in with the Diamond suit, Declarer can hedge his bets by playing Clubs first, building a trick there just in case the Diamonds misbehave. The defense can take their three Hearts and two Clubs but that is all they get. Did you play on Clubs before Diamonds? Well done if you did!

One more point. Did you win the Heart at Trick 1? Or did you duck, planning to win the second Heart, in case the suit was 5-1? It's safe to win the first trick, the Hearts cannot be 5-1. East played the King, so he denies the Queen and cannot have five in the suit ... and if West had QJT87 he would no doubt have led the Queen. So, it's OK to win the first trick and play on Clubs, safe in the knowledge that the defense cannot cash six tricks. If you cautiously ducked the first Heart then it would be just your luck for the defense to find the killing Spade shift.







**Please see schedules on page 1**



**AMERICAN CONTRACT  
BRIDGE LEAGUE**

— DEALING INFINITE POSSIBILITIES —