



# Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 25 Number 9 – September, 2023



## September 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**

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



- 1 4,936.97 Steve Babin
- 2 3,698.40 Zach Freehill
- 3 3,512.47 Eunice Patton
- 4 3,321.00 Cindy Moore
- 5 2,646.97 Mike Tomlianovich
- 6 2,476.33 Ann Schuyler
- 7 2,458.71 Lori Moore
- 8 1,964.13 Ron Emmett
- 9 1,943.87 Joyce Clay
- 10 1,679.95 Jeff Furler
- 11 1,367.63 Steve Wulfers
- 12 881.60 Ray Dostal
- 13 889.27 Barb Neuges
- 14 877.40 Dave Freehill
- 15 844.91 Sallie Boge
- 16 768.78 Fred Spitzzeri
- 17 678.92 Larry Ziegler
- 18 603.85 Mary Cralley
- 19 542.47 Chris Zogg
- 20 521.65 Rick Dalton
- 21 509.93 John Cralley
- 22 479.55 Gene Byers
- 23 443.67 Pat Lebeck
- 24 407.93 Marilyn Byers
- 25 376.58 Kay Marvin

### more players:

- 13,822.07 Chris Benson-LeRoy
- 6,239.48 Larry Matheny-Ft Collins CO
- 5,987.09 Ron Sholes-Springfield
- 5,727.12 John Seng-Champaign
- 4,871.23 Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
- 4,663.08 Paul Lindauer-Chicago
- 4,028.86 JoAnn Schroeder-Appleton,WI
- 3,939.65 Terry Goodykoontz
- 3,921.09 Mary Allen-Peoria
- 3,851.03 Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 2,777.56 Georgia Heth-Morton
- 2,741.78 Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
- 2,654.93 Margaret Hansell-Champaign
- 2,631.71 Chuck Young-Peoria
- 2,497.42 John Maloney-Champaign
- 2,107.55 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
- 2,021.50 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
- 1,500.54 Wes Seitz-Champaign
- 1,213.18 Bill Strauss-Urbana
- 1,042.98 Darryl Bremner-Clinton
- 1,039.06 Bill Thompson-Ft Myers,FL
- 803.78 Carole Miller-Champaign
- 761.47 Melda Richardson-California
- 753.05 Connie Tucker-Champaign
- 632.59 John Ford-Harvard,MA
- 624.90 Lane O'Connor-Naperville
- 619.47 Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
- 529.57 Barry Mayworm-Princeton
- 488.59 Rich Hagenhauer-Peoria
- 456.25 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

Hand evaluation is often difficult. The auction will usually be your best gauge to understand the importance of your honor cards and your distribution. This hand offers a good example.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

Hand #21		♠ KQ1072				
Dir W		♥ AJ10752				
Vul N/S		♦ Q				
		♣ 4				
				<b>West North East South</b>		
♠ AJ3		♠ 85	INT	DBL*	RDBL	2♣
♥ 983		♥ 64	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
♦ A752		♦ KJ10986	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
♣ AQ3		♣ KJ2	All			
			Pass			
		♠ 964				
		♥ KQ				
		♦ 43				
		♣ 1098765				

\*Majors or minors

**BIDDING:** There are many conventions to use over the opponents' opening INT. This North-South partnership uses a double to show either the majors or the minors. After East redoubled to suggest his side had the balance of power, South ran to 2♣ hoping North held the minor suits. But, North followed with 2♥ showing the majors so South took a preference to 2♠. He was expecting the opponents to double but instead heard his partner raise. South looked at this weak hand and started to pass but stopped to reflect on the auction. After hearing the INT opening and East showing strength, North still was inviting game. South knew that his partner must hold a really strong major two-suiter and quickly realized the importance of the king-queen of hearts. He accepted the invitation but was very nervous and eager to see the dummy.

**PLAY:** West won the two minor suit aces and continued with another diamond. South ruffed this in dummy and played a heart to his hand. He then lead a spade to dummy's king followed by another heart to his hand. A second spade toward dummy was won by West. He forced dummy to ruff another minor suit card after which South drew the last trump and made his contract.

This hand was well bid by North. He knew the dangers in missing a vulnerable game at this form of scoring. At the other table, North-South stopped in 3♠ making four and South was heard to say: "But, I only had five points".

This was an exciting hand. Note it takes a heart opening lead to defeat 3NT by East-West.

## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

A good defender must always be alert for ways to defeat the contract. Sometimes it may even require trumping your partner's good trick. Take a look at this hand.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

<b>Hand #20</b> <b>Dir N</b> <b>Vul E/W</b>	♠ J10965 ♥ 75 ♦ 93 ♣ AK64																
♠ 8 ♥ A1032 ♦ AKQJ85 ♣ 83	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ 2 ♥ QJ986 ♦ 2 ♣ QJ10972	<table style="margin: 0 auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="padding: 0 10px;">West</th> <th style="padding: 0 10px;">North</th> <th style="padding: 0 10px;">East</th> <th style="padding: 0 10px;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pass</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2♦</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1♠	2♦	4♠	All Pass			
West	North	East	South														
	Pass	Pass	1♠														
2♦	4♠	All Pass															
	♠ AKQ743 ♥ K4 ♦ 10764 ♣ 5																

**BIDDING:** The power of the spade suit strikes again. East had good distribution but weak suits and the vulnerability kept him out of the auction. West had a good hand but was unable to bid again over 4♠.

**PLAY:** West led the ace of diamonds and continued with the king. Declarer thought he would have no problems with the contract. He would win the third trick, draw trumps, discard a heart loser on the king of clubs, and trump all of his losing diamonds in dummy. However, East saw that his partner would have no good continuation at trick three so he ruffed the king of diamonds and put the queen of hearts on the table. Declarer was quickly down one. South smiled weakly and said "nice defense".

It was little consolation that East-West were cold for 4♥; declarer knew many would succeed in 4♠ and he was getting a below average score.

Copyright ©2007 Larry Matheny.



## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

Hand evaluation is often difficult. The auction will usually be your best gauge to understand the importance of your honor cards and your distribution. This hand offers a good example.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

<b>Hand #21</b> <b>Dir W</b> <b>Vul N/S</b>	♠ KQ1072 ♥ AJ10752 ♦ Q ♣ 4	♠ 85 ♥ 64 ♦ KJ10986 ♣ KJ2	♠ 964 ♥ KQ ♦ 43 ♣ 1098765	<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></td> <td>INT</td> <td>DBL*</td> <td>RDBL</td> <td>2♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>All</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>							West	North	East	South		INT	DBL*	RDBL	2♣		Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠		Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠		All					Pass			
	West	North	East	South																															
	INT	DBL*	RDBL	2♣																															
	Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠																															
	Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠																															
	All																																		
	Pass																																		

\*Majors or minors

**BIDDING:** There are many conventions to use over the opponents' opening 1NT. This North-South partnership uses a double to show either the majors or the minors. After East redoubled to suggest his side had the balance of power, South ran to 2♣ hoping North held the minor suits. But, North followed with 2♥ showing the majors so South took a preference to 2♠. He was expecting the opponents to double but instead heard his partner raise. South looked at this weak hand and started to pass but stopped to reflect on the auction. After hearing the 1NT opening and East showing strength, North still was inviting game. South knew that his partner must hold a really strong major two-suiter and quickly realized the importance of the king-queen of hearts. He accepted the invitation but was very nervous and eager to see the dummy.

**PLAY:** West won the two minor suit aces and continued with another diamond. South ruffed this in dummy and played a heart to his hand. He then lead a spade to dummy's king followed by another heart to his hand. A second spade toward dummy was won by West. He forced dummy to ruff another minor suit card after which South drew the last trump and made his contract.

This hand was well bid by North. He knew the dangers in missing a vulnerable game at this form of scoring. At the other table, North-South stopped in 3♠ making four and South was heard to say: "But, I only had five points".

This was an exciting hand. Note it takes a heart opening lead to defeat 3NT by East-West.

## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

In a pairs event overtricks are very important. Here is a hand where the auction gave declarer the information he needed to take the maximum number of tricks.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

<b>Hand #22</b> <b>Dir N</b> <b>Vul N/S</b>	♠ 10874 ♥ Q105 ♦ A863 ♣ 98					
♠ Q ♥ AK8743 ♦ KJ5 ♣ Q52	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ J6 ♥ J62 ♦ 9742 ♣ J1074	<b>West</b>  2♥ Pass All Pass	<b>North</b>  Pass 2♠ 3♦	<b>East</b>  Pass Pass Pass	<b>South</b>  1♠ 3♣ 4♣

**BIDDING:** After North's raise, South made a help-suit game try in clubs. West had a nice hand but after a few moments he realized his partner must be broke so he passed with a sigh. North bid 3♦ which denied help in clubs but showed a good raise with a diamond honor. This was enough to encourage South to bid game.

**PLAY:** West led the ace of hearts but after spotting the heart queen in dummy, shifted to the queen of spades. Declarer saw he could ruff his two low clubs in dummy so his only other possible loser was a diamond. Reflecting on the auction, declarer knew it was almost certain West held the diamond king and the heart king so a squeeze was possible to develop a 12th trick. It was a simple matter to draw trumps and ruff the two small clubs. He then played the rest of the trumps and West was doomed. On the last trump West had to discard from ♥K and ♦KJ while behind him dummy held ♥Q and ♦A8. His only hope was to discard a diamond and hope his partner held the queen but it wasn't to be. Declarer discarded his now worthless heart queen and took the last two diamond tricks.

Surprisingly, in a local game only five of twelve N-S pairs found this simple squeeze. Declarer merely needed to visualize the red suit holding of West and play all of his trumps.

Copyright ©2007 Larry Matheny.

## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

You need good bidding tools to reach the close games. If you're just guessing, you need to be lucky.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

<b>Hand #23</b> <b>Dir N</b> <b>Vul N/S</b>	♠ Q1054 ♥ AJ10 ♦ A754 ♣ 86					
♠ J7 ♥ 983 ♦ K108 ♣ J7543	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ 93 ♥ K542 ♦ Q932 ♣ AQ2	<b>West</b>  Pass Pass Pass	<b>North</b> Pass 2♣* 4♠	<b>East</b> Pass Pass All Pass	<b>South</b> 1♠ 2♦
	♠ AK862 ♥ Q76 ♦ J6 ♣ K109					

\*Drury

**BIDDING:** North passed a near opening strength hand. After South opened 1♠, North's first impulse was to leap to game. However, it was possible that South had opened light in third seat so North used the Drury convention to ask about South's hand. Drury is used by a passed-hand in response to a major suit opener. The 2♦ response showed an opening hand but one with no extra values. That was enough for North and game was quickly reached.

**PLAY:** This was a good game. Declarer needed either the heart king in the West hand or the club ace in the East hand. A diamond was led and South ended up with ten tricks losing one heart, one diamond, and one club.

It's true that most N-S pairs reached this game but what if South had opened light, say without the club king? Would you have stopped short of game with the North hand or bid four and hoped for the best?

Copyright ©2007 Larry Matheny.





## **Bloomington-Normal 70% club Year 2023 only**

<b>2023/8/28</b>	<b>77.70%</b>	<b>Dick Dubroff &amp; Mike Gross(social meets duplicate)</b>
<b>2023/8/21</b>	<b>70.51%</b>	<b>Steve Babin &amp; Paul Lindauer</b>
<b>2023/8/6</b>	<b>70.63%</b>	<b>Cindy Moore &amp; Steve Babin</b>
<b>2023/7/31</b>	<b>70.37%</b>	<b>Dawn Laffey &amp; Joni Newberg(social meets duplicate)</b>
<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>



## BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



### #133 – THE ONLY CARD

♠ KT954 ♥ 2 ♦ QJ653 ♣ 94	North	♠ 62 ♥ J87 ♦ A974 ♣ T872
♠ QJ87 ♥ Q6 ♦ KT82 ♣ KQJ	West      East	
	Declarer	
♠ A3 ♥ AKT9543 ♦ ♣ A653		

#### Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♥	Dbl	1♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

You are West, looking at the N-W hands, there must be something on your breakfast table to cover the S-E hands. Against 4♥ you lead the ♣K, and that holds the trick, Partner playing the Two. Now, at Trick 2, there is only one card in your hand that will defeat this contract. What is it?

Before you play to Trick 2, let's analyze Trick 1. Partner played the Two, and in standard carding methods that is discouraging. In other words, Partner

does not like the suit and it is safe to assume that he does not have the Ace. So Declarer has the Ace, yet she did not win the trick. What is she up to? That's right, she would just love for you to continue with Clubs, allowing her to win the Ace and get a ruff in Dummy.

It goes against the grain to lead away from certain trump holdings, and leading from Qx has potential for blowing a trump trick. Nonetheless, stopping the ruff is paramount, so you bite the bullet and shift to a trump. But which one? Leading a low trump would deprive Declarer of a trick by stopping his Club ruff, but it might return the trick by destroying Partner's trump holding. Time to remove that diagonally placed (pre-syrup) waffle from your morning newspaper, and take a peek at the S-E hands.

Yes, at Trick 2, the only card in your hand that will beat the contract is the ♥Q! Not only does it deprive Declarer of his ruff in Dummy, but it also preserves Partner's natural trump trick. In the fullness of time the defense will score three Clubs and a Heart, and that is down one.



## #134 – A SURPRISING DUCK

♠ 8432  
♥ AJ43  
♦ J62  
♣ K2

♠ KT76 ♥ 72 ♦ T9854 ♣ 63	North	♠ J9 ♥ T9865 ♦ 73 ♣ JT98
	West      East	
	Declarer	

♠ AQ5  
♥ KQ  
♦ AKQ  
♣ AQ754

### Both Vulnerable

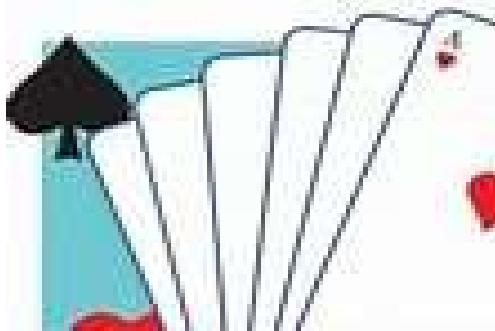
South	West	North	East
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	6NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

South's 2♣ bid was artificial and strong, and North's 2♦ was also artificial, showing a hand without a suit worth bidding. Then common sense took over, and N-S blasted into 6NT. Can you make 12 tricks? Be warned, this one's not easy!

West led the Diamond Ten and Declarer could count 11 top tricks. Where was the 12<sup>th</sup>? One possibility was the Spade finesse but that was only a 50% proposition and Declarer knew that a 4-2 or 3-3 Club break was more likely. So Declarer's general plan was to unblock the ♥KQ, cross to the ♣K, cash Dummy's Heart winners (pitching Spades), and play on Clubs, hoping for a reasonable break in the suit.

But Declarer had neglected to think about the consequences of a bad *Heart* break. That's right, when Dummy's Heart winners were cashed the suit proved to be 5-2. Even worse, it turned out that the defender with the long Hearts also had the long Clubs. Declarer could set up his 12<sup>th</sup> trick alright, but the defense scored a Heart and a Club first. Down one!

We'll admit that Declarer was most unlucky with that line of play, it only failed because Hearts were 5-2, Clubs were not 3-3, *and* the long Hearts and long Clubs were in the same hand. But good players make their own luck and Declarer had a most surprising play at his disposal. Remember, he had won the opening Diamond lead, and unblocked the ♥KQ. Now at Trick 4 he ducks a Club! See the difference? Yes, the Club trick that he could afford to lose is now lost before Dummy's Hearts have been cashed (in other words, before East's long Heart has become a winner). That's a difficult play to find at the bridge table, did you find it at your breakfast table?



## #135 – HELPING PARTNER

♠ KT6  
♥ 4  
♦ 75  
♣ T876542

North  
West East  
Declarer

♠ 97  
♥ AKQJT5  
♦ AK2  
♣ AQ

♠ AQJ42  
♥ 762  
♦ Q86  
♣ K9

### Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
			1♠
Dbl	Pass	2♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

3NT is cold, but our South was in 4♥. That would have succeeded against some E-W pairs, but not against this E-W. Watch how West wakes up her partner and persuades him to make the right play in Diamonds.

West leads a Spade, low from Dummy, won by East's Jack. East looks at Dummy and realizes that it's useless for Declarer's purposes. Well, almost!

There is that doubleton Diamond, a potential ruffing value if Declarer happens to have ♦AKx. So, East promptly shifts to a trump, snuffing out that threat.

Declarer still has four potential losers, with no way of reaching Dummy for the Club finesse. He may decide that the best chance now is to play for East to have Qxx in Diamonds. So he draws trumps, and plays ♦AK and a low Diamond, hoping to throw in East. If the plan works then East will be forced to give Declarer his 10<sup>th</sup> trick in one of the black suits. But our E-W are made of sterner stuff and you can be sure that East will jettison his ♦Q under the Ace or the King, allowing West to win the third Diamond trick. You can also be sure that West will play the ♦J on the first round of Diamonds. That says (a) I can afford to play the Jack, (b) I don't have the Queen, if I did I could have afforded to play it, (c) I have the Ten, otherwise I could not afford the Jack. That considerate play by West should persuade even the sleepest East to dump the Queen.

Here's a little twist. If those defenders are so confoundedly smart, then most of the time they will be able to arrange for West to win the third Diamond. That being so, Declarer might try a swindle. Look at what happens if, instead of playing Diamonds, Declarer cashes the ♣A. Now, a clued-in East will be seriously tempted to dump the ♣K, playing Declarer to hold ♦AKJ and ♣AJ!





## #136 – FROZEN SUIT

♠ 542 ♥ AQ87 ♦ AK7 ♣ T32		
♠ QT83 ♥ 64 ♦ QJ98 ♣ Q98	North	♠ J96 ♥ 932 ♦ T54 ♣ K764
	West      East	
	Declarer	
♠ AK7 ♥ KJT5 ♦ 632 ♣ AJ5		

### Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

3NT would have been an easy contract but South found herself in 4♥, where there are the same nine winners. N-S have mirror distributions, so there are no ruffs to add to that total. Where is the 10<sup>th</sup> trick?

This deal is all about the Club suit. On the lie of the cards, if Declarer breaks open the suit, she will score just the Ace and will lose the other two tricks.

But if the defense breaks open the suit then Declarer will make two tricks. In other words, it's a frozen suit, and whoever plays Clubs first loses. But Declarer has the majority of the high cards and the trumps, let's see how she uses them to make the defense blink first.

West leads the ♦Q which is won in Dummy, and trumps are drawn in three rounds. Declarer avoids playing Clubs, of course, instead she cashes her Spade winners and her second Diamond winner, and exits with a Diamond. The defense can safely cash a Spade, but now they will be faced with unpleasant alternatives:

- *Either* they can play a Spade or a Diamond, giving Declarer a ruff and discard (one hand ruffs, the other discards a Club loser)
- *Or* they can break open the frozen Clubs and give up the 10<sup>th</sup> trick that way.

That line of play was not guaranteed to succeed. Imagine West with ♣KQx, and further suppose that East is able to win the third round of Spades and of Diamonds. Now, when Declarer exits a Diamond, East wins and fires a Club through, won by West. Back comes a Spade to East and another Club through, and that's down one. Declarer can avoid this grisly fate by ducking the opening Diamond lead (now East gets in only once and cannot lead Clubs twice), but that play will not be a great success if East is able to ruff the second round of Diamonds.





**Please see schedules on page 1**



**AMERICAN CONTRACT  
BRIDGE LEAGUE**

— DEALING INFINITE POSSIBILITIES —