



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 25 Number 10 – October, 2023



October events



Bloomington-Normal Fall Tournament – see page 8 of this newsletter.

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 – social meets duplicate pairs 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 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 9/7/2023 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



1	4,977.08	Steve Babin
2	3,705.77	Zach Freehill
3	3,526.30	Eunice Patton
4	3,340.19	Cindy Moore
5	2,657.87	Mike Tomlianovich
6	2,483.87	Ann Schuyler
7	2,466.80	Lori Moore
8	1,971.86	Ron Emmett
9	1,961.46	Joyce Clay
10	1,682.36	Jeff Furler
11	1,377.81	Steve Wulfers
12	890.27	Barb Neuges
13	879.11	Dave Freehill
14	844.91	Sallie Boge
15	769.49	Fred Spitzzeri
16	699.49	Larry Ziegler
17	603.85	Mary Cralley
18	548.86	Chris Zogg
19	528.40	Rick Dalton
20	509.93	John Cralley
21	481.36	Gene Byers
22	447.27	Pat Lebeck
23	409.73	Marilyn Byers
24	380.51	Kay Marvin
25	365.28	Joyce Werner

more players:

13,857.03	Chris Benson-LeRoy
6,260.32	Larry Matheny-Ft Collins CO
6,000.63	Ron Sholes-Springfield
5,737.27	John Seng-Champaign
4,903.13	Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
4,693.42	Paul Lindauer-Chicago
4,029.56	JoAnn Schroeder-Appleton,WI
3,944.57	Mary Allen-Peoria
3,939.65	Terry Goodykoontz
3,865.86	Carole Sholes-Springfield
2,785.38	Georgia Heth-Morton
2,751.50	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
2,654.93	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
2,645.88	Chuck Young-Peoria
2,501.22	John Maloney-Champaign
2,116.57	Marilyn Stickel-Laon
2,032.38	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
1,511.46	Wes Seitz-Champaign
1,221.90	Bill Strauss-Urbana
1,060.81	Darryl Bremner-Clinton
1,048.85	Bill Thompson-Estero,FL
803.78	Carole Miller-Champaign
773.43	Connie Tucker-Champaign
767.60	Melda Richardson-California
641.90	John Ford-Harvard,MA
625.63	Lane O'Connor-Naperville
622.93	Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
535.43	Barry Mayworm-Princeton
492.93	Rich Hagenhauer-Peoria
465.13	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's nice when the opponents pass allowing you to find your best contract but much of the time, they get in your way. This often means scrambling for your tricks; take a look at this one.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand #24 Dir W Vul N/S	♠ QJ ♥ 1093 ♦ 87543 ♣ Q82					
♠ 87643 ♥ 8762 ♦ 1062 ♣ 4	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ 2 ♥ KQ54 ♦ KJ9 ♣ KJ1065	West Pass 3♥ Pass All Pass	North Pass Pass 4♦ Pass	East 1♥ Pass Pass	South DBL DBL 4♠
	♠ AK1095 ♥ AJ ♦ AQ ♣ A973					

BIDDING: South's hand was too strong to merely overcall so he started with a takeout double. West made a preemptive raise to the three-level and South doubled again to show a very good hand. With no defense, North bid his five-card diamond suit. South finally was able to show his spade suit and North passed hoping the queen and jack of spades would be enough support.

PLAY: West led a heart and South counted five potential losers: one heart, one diamond, and three clubs. A review of the auction told declarer both minor suit kings were probably in the East hand so at least the diamond finesse should work. He also wanted to take advantage of dummy's heart ten so he won the heart queen with the ace and returned the jack. East won the king and switched to a trump. Declarer won this in dummy and played a second trump to get the bad news about the spade suit. Next he played the ten of hearts discarding a club and then took the winning diamond finesse. He now had ten tricks: five spades, two hearts, two diamonds, and one club.

It may appear the contract can be defeated with an opening club lead, but careful play will still bring home ten tricks. Declarer should lose only one heart, one club, and a club ruff. Also note that declarer has an easy nine tricks in 3NT.

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IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

Some players merely count their high card points at their turn to bid while others look more closely at the entire hand. The following is a good example of proper hand evaluation along with a little card placement.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand #25 Dir S Vul N/S	♠ KJ3 ♥ A9 ♦ AQJ9832 ♣ J					
♠ A4 ♥ KQ4 ♦ 107 ♣ AQ7542	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ Q762 ♥ J1072 ♦ 654 ♣ 93	West 1♣ 2♣ All Pass	North 1♦ 3♦	East Pass Pass Pass	South Pass Pass 3NT
	♠ 10985 ♥ 8653 ♦ K ♣ K1086					

BIDDING: South passed his partner's first overcall but came to life after hearing the jump rebid. He visualized his partner holding a six or seven card diamond suit with outside strength. South's club cards looked strong enough so he ventured 3NT.

PLAY: West led a low a club won by dummy's jack. South now had nine tricks but since this was a pairs event, he looked around for an overtrick. From the auction, declarer realized West surely held the ace of spades so declarer led a diamond to his king followed by a low spade to dummy's king. He now had ten tricks and a very good result. Most of the other South players passed 3♦ because they "only had six points". A few were bold enough to bid 3NT but quickly ran their nine tricks. The important point is that South needs to recognize the value of his diamond king.

West's best opening lead is the king of hearts. Assuming declarer ducks, West must continue with the heart queen to avoid blocking the suit. Of course, East must cooperate by encouraging at trick one. This defense will leave declarer with only eight tricks.

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IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

There is no doubt that it takes skill to be successful at bridge but it also helps to have a little luck. Take a look and see if this was well played or just lucky.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand #26 Dir S Vul N/S	♠ AKJ92 ♥ J103 ♦ A42 ♣ AQ		West North East South		
♠ 763 ♥ ♦ 9865 ♣ J108432	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ 1085 ♥ AQ5 ♦ KQJ3 ♣ K97	Pass 4NT* Pass 5♦ All Pass	Pass Pass Pass Pass	3♥ 5♣ 5♥
	♠ Q4 ♥ K987642 ♦ 107 ♣ 65				

*Roman Keycard Blackwood

BIDDING: I was sitting North and almost just bid slam after my partner's 3♥ bid. However, we had the tools so stay out of slam if his heart suit was less than robust. My 4NT call was Keycard Blackwood which counts the king of the agreed suit as an ace. His 5♣ response showed one keycard so I became a bit nervous. My 5♦ bid asked if he held the queen of hearts and his response denied it. Since we were missing either the AQ or the KQ of hearts, I was now worried. I knew slam was still possible, but decided the odds were against us.

PLAY: West led the jack of clubs and partner counted four possible losers: 2 hearts, 1 diamond, and 1 club. He won the ace of clubs and played three rounds of spades pitching a club. Finding a 3-3 spade break was only a 36% proposition but this time it worked. Next he led the jack of hearts from dummy, East played the queen, and the king won as West showed out. A second heart went to the ten and ace. East switched to the diamond king won in dummy. My partner then played a good spade from dummy that East ruffed and South over-ruffed. Now declarer played the deuce of hearts to dummy's trey and discarded his diamond loser on a good spade and had 12 tricks. I knew I should have bid the slam!

Note the importance of keeping the heart deuce for later transportation to dummy. If East plays the ace of hearts instead of the queen, the same end game develops. So was this a lucky hand or was it my partner's skill? Well, a heart contract was played at 11 other tables and no one else made 12 tricks so I have to go with skill on this one.

IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

If you're going to sacrifice, it usually pays to do it early. This hand is a good example.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand #27 Dir S Vul E/W	♠ 98653 ♥ 108543 ♦ 1085 ♣					
♠ A104 ♥ J ♦ Q73 ♣ KQJ854	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ KQJ7 ♥ KQ ♦ A9 ♣ 109762	West 2♣	North 5♥	East 6♣	South 1♥ All Pass
	♠ 2 ♥ A9862 ♦ KJ642 ♣ A3					

BIDDING: The auction started calmly enough but then North leaped to 5♥. He saw the favorable vulnerability and wanted to make E-W guess at the five level. Sure enough, East held such a good hand he took the plunge. South thought about doubling but it wasn't certain they could beat the small slam.

PLAY: North led a heart and the contract was soon down one. West can discard a diamond on the fourth spade and another on dummy's heart honor. It takes a diamond lead to beat it two tricks. North's bid paid off because if East doubles instead of bidding the slam, N-S are only down two for -300. That beats all of the E-W pairs who bid and make 5♣.

If North had only bid 4♥, East still might have bid six but would probably stop at five. When you're going to preempt, make the opponents guess at the highest level you're willing to bid and do it immediately.

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Bloomington/Normal Fall Non-Life Master Regional and Open Sectional

Sponsored by Central Illinois Bridge Association Unit 208



**Friday and Saturday
October 6-7, 2023**



First Christian Church (Lower Level)

401 W Jefferson, Bloomington, IL 61701

Enter building from parking lot on the 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 that need assistance.

COVID Update: Proof of vaccination is not required

Tournament Notes: Complimentary coffee and snacks will be provided during the Tournament. Unit 208 requests no perfumes or colognes or scented lotions. ACBL's Zero Tolerance Policy will be enforced.

***GOLD/Red Points awarded in NLM Gold Rush
Silver Points awarded in Open Sectional
\$12.00 per session***

Non-ACBL members \$16.00 per session

PLAYING SCHEDULE

Must play both sessions for Gold points. Sectional games are Single Session Events.

<u>Friday – October 6</u>	<u>Saturday – October 7</u>
10:00 am: NLM 0-750 Gold Rush Pairs (1 of 2) Open Pairs/Team Game* (Single)	10:00 am: NLM 0-750 Gold Rush Pairs (1 of 2) Open Pairs/Team Game* (Single)
3:00 pm: NLM 0-750 Gold Rush Pairs (2 of 2) Open Pairs/Team Game* (Single)	3:00 pm: NLM 0-750 Gold Rush Pairs (2 of 2) Open Pairs/Team Game* (Single)

Stratifications: The Tournament Director may change all stratifications in the interest of the game, depending on the number of players registered.

- Sectional Games: 0-750 points = C; 750-2000 points = B; 2000+ = A.
- NLM Gold Rush: 0-100=C; 100-300=B; 300-750=A.
- Masterpoint averaging will be used however, no non-life master may have more than 750 points to play in Gold Rush.
- Availability of Team games in the Open Sectional is based on attendance and will be determined by the Director. You may come with your own team.

Tournament Chair: Lori Moore, whisperpines@me.com or 309-838-8085

Partnership Chair/Co-Tournament Chair: Larry Ziegler, lzgoBLUE54@gmail.com or 309-336-8568



Bloomington-Normal 70% club Year 2023 only

2023/10/18	70.33%	Cindy Moore & Terry Goodykoontz
2023/8/28	77.70%	Dick Dubroff & Mike Gross(social meets duplicate)
2023/8/21	70.51%	Steve Babin & Paul Lindauer
2023/8/6	70.63%	Cindy Moore & Steve Babin
2023/7/31	70.37%	Dawn Laffey & Joni Newberg(social meets duplicate)
2023/6/26	70.35%	Kay Ann Criswell & Becky O'Donnell(social meets duplicate)
2023/6/5	71.25%	Dick Dubroff & Mike Gross(social meets duplicate)
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)



BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#137 – COUNT UP TO TEN

♠ A752		
♥ KJ2		
♦ 62		
♣ 6532		
♠ QJT4	North	♠ K986
♥ 654	West	♥ 97
♦ A8	East	♦ KT973
♣ QT87	Declarer	♣ 94
♠ 3		
♥ AQT83		
♦ QJ54		
♣ AKJ		

Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Declarer can count eight top tricks and there are various ways by which she might attempt get that total up to ten. There's the Club finesse ... a Diamond trick or two ... a Diamond ruff or two. What is the best way of combining the chances after the ♠Q opening lead?

There is approximately 0% chance of getting two Diamond ruffs (if Declarer plays on Diamonds the defense will shift to trumps pronto) ... there is a 50% chance of the Club finesse working ... and there is approximately a 75% chance of East holding at least one of the top two Diamonds. So playing on Diamonds is clearly a better bet for the ninth trick than is taking the Club finesse. And the 10th trick? That can come from a Diamond ruff in the short hand (we've already counted Declarer's five trumps, so taking a couple of Spade ruffs won't add to the trick total). Declarer has a plan: set up a Diamond trick, and ruff a Diamond.

That's a very fine plan but Declarer will need to be careful with the timing. After winning the opening Spade lead in Dummy, it is essential to lead a Diamond at Trick 2 to Declarer's Queen and West's Ace. West predictably shifts to a trump. That is won in Dummy, and another Diamond is led, this time won by East. Back comes another trump, but Declarer is home. She wins that trump in hand, ruffs a Diamond, returns to hand with the ♣A, draws the last trump, and has her 10 tricks.

P.S. Let's go back to the point where East wins the second round of Diamonds. Suppose that East, instead of returning a trump, continues with a third round of Diamonds. In this case, Declarer will take care to play a *low* Diamond from hand (ruffing on the board), saving her Diamond winner for later, when trumps have been drawn.



#138 – TWO WAYS TO WIN

♠ Q3 ♥ J973 ♦ K ♣ AKQJT7		
♠ J872 ♥ Q ♦ JT974 ♣ 953	North West East Declarer	♠ AKT964 ♥ KT6 ♦ 63 ♣ 84
♠ 5 ♥ A8542 ♦ AQ852 ♣ 62		

Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
		1♣	1♠
2♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
Pass	Pass	5♥	All Pass

Bridge bidding is not an exact science, as N-S demonstrated on this deal. They would have done well to double 4♠, but instead they pushed on to 5♥, giving E-W the opportunity to show that defense can also be inexact.

The defense plays Spades and Declarer ruffs the second round. Now, if only she can avoid two trump losers, she will make this contract. Declarer's

thought processes might go something like this:

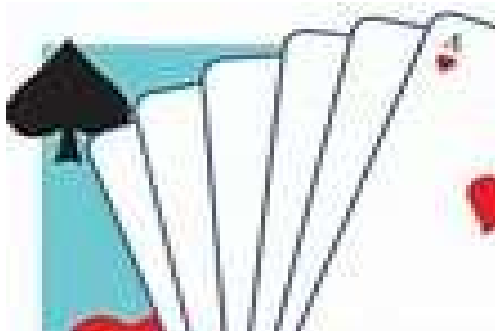
- East's 4♠ suggests six Spades and yet he did not preempt, so perhaps he has some values, which would have to be in Spades and Hearts.
- West's 3♠ was preemptive, showing a weak hand and typically four Spades. 3♠ was also bid when vulnerable, so perhaps West was fortified by shortness somewhere, probably in Hearts.

Having concluded that, how will Declarer play the trump suit, hopefully for one loser, allowing her to make 11 tricks? Declarer will reason that if trumps are 2-2 then how she plays the suit does not matter too much. But, if they are 3-1, and if East has the length (as seems likely), then Declarer might as well lead the ♥J from Dummy on the first round of the suit.

One of two good things might happen:

- West might have the singleton Ten, holding the trump losers to one.
- East might hold ♥KT6 or ♥QT6, and make the (big) mistake of covering the Jack. Mirth and merriment will be politely suppressed when this crashes West's singleton honor, handing Declarer an impossible contract.

The moral of the story is that, when we get to a crummy contract, it pays to give the opponents the chance to find a crummy defense.



#139 – TRUMP CONTROL

♠ QT9		
♥ QT874		
♦ 9		
♣ A863		

♠ 7643	North	♠ 85
♥ K65	West	♥ AJ3
♦ QJT7	East	♦ AK8652
♣ 74	Declarer	♣ 52

Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
			1♦
2♣	2♦	3♣	3♦
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

N-S stretch to reach 4♣ here. Even though it is a 4-3 fit, it's the only game with a chance of making. As is often the case with 4-3 fits, the success of the contract depends on trump control. Which side will prevail?

One (rather feeble) line of defense would be to play two rounds of Diamonds, forcing Dummy to ruff. But that gets the defense nowhere, Declarer simply draws trumps and runs the Clubs. That is 10 tricks, made up of nine black suit winners plus that Diamond ruff in the short hand.

Forcing Dummy to ruff a Diamond was not a good defensive strategy, for two reasons. Firstly, the ruff in the short hand added to Declarer's trick total, and secondly it did nothing to threaten Declarer's trump control. East missed his chance to defeat the contract, do you see it? That's right, after winning the opening Diamond lead, East must force *Declarer* to ruff. A ruff in the long hand does not add to Declarer's trick total, but it does threaten her trump control. So, at Trick 2, East shifts to a *low* Heart. West wins that and fires back another Heart. Then the third round of Hearts does in Declarer. Declarer must ruff that in her hand, but now has fewer trumps than West. Goodbye trump control, hello down one!

Declarer can count herself a little bit unlucky if she goes down on this deal. The defense had to find the right plan, *and* the ♥J had to be with East, *and* the E-W trumps had to be 4-2 (if they had been 3-3 then Declarer could have withstood the ruff in her hand).



#140 – LOUD AND CLEAR

♠ T8
♥ T854
♦ T953
♣ QJ5

E-W Vulnerable

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

♠ 542 ♥ 3 ♦ AQJ742 ♣ 732	North West East Declarer	♠ 97 ♥ AJ962 ♦ K6 ♣ T864
♠ AKQJ63 ♥ KQ7 ♦ 8 ♣ AK9		

2♣ was artificial and strong, and South wound up in 4♠. Looking at all four hands it is not difficult to see how E-W can defeat this contract, but how many E-W pairs would find the winning defense at the table?

On opening lead, West did not see much future in Diamonds, so he went after a ruff or two by leading his singleton Heart. East won her Ace and

Declarer, being a shifty sort of fellow, dropped the King in an attempt to muddy the waters for the defense. That gave East pause for thought, as she wondered whether West had led from ♥Q73. Eventually East decided that Declarer's King was probably flim-flam, so she returned a Heart for West to ruff. But *which* Heart?

The winning defense after the ruff was, of course, for West to underlead his ♦A, getting East in to provide a second ruff. But how was West to know that East's entry was the ♦K and not the ♣A? The answer was in the Heart led back by East at Trick 2. A low Heart would say "Return a Club" (the lower-ranking suit), and a high Heart would say "Return a Diamond" (the higher-ranking suit, which is Diamonds as trumps are not part of this equation). A middling Heart would indicate no preference.

So, should East return the Heart Nine? No, the Nine might be ambiguous, better to hit Partner over the head with a signal which is as loud and clear as possible. That would be the Jack! West ruffs that and there is no mistaking East's intentions. The ♦A is underled to East's King, then a second ruff, and Declarer is down one.





Please see schedules on page 1



**AMERICAN CONTRACT
BRIDGE LEAGUE**

— DEALING INFINITE POSSIBILITIES —