



# Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 26 Number 5 – May, 2024



## 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 – 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 – 5/8:STaC**

**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**

**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 4/7/2024 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only  
paid up ACBL members only



- 1 5,123.46 Steve Babin
- 2 3,737.01 Zach Freehill
- 3 3,645.98 Eunice Patton
- 4 3,429.77 Cindy Moore
- 5 2,717.68 Mike Tomlianovich
- 6 2,541.70 Ann Schuyler
- 7 2,523.90 Lori Moore
- 8 2,087.93 Joyce Clay
- 9 2,015.87 Ron Emmett
- 10 1,701.63 Jeff Furler
- 11 1,415.74 Steve Wulfers
- 12 923.22 Barb Neuges
- 13 887.28 Dave Freehill
- 14 861.99 Sallie Boge
- 15 803.56 Fred Spitzzeri
- 16 770.00 Larry Ziegler
- 17 609.88 Mary Cralley
- 18 589.77 Chris Zogg
- 19 581.58 Rick Dalton
- 20 513.59 John Cralley
- 21 496.24 Pat Lebeck
- 22 488.14 Gene Byers
- 23 416.16 Marilyn Byers
- 24 411.44 Kay Marvin
- 25 365.28 Joyce Werner

### more players:

- 14,063.36 Chris Benson-LeRoy
- 6,401.47 Larry Matheny-Ft Collins CO
- 6,078.46 Ron Sholes-Springfield
- 5,815.97 John Seng-Champaign
- 5,100.01 Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
- 4,839.97 Paul Lindauer-Chicago
- 4,074.59 Mary Allen-Peoria
- 4,043.98 JoAnn Schroeder-Appleton,WI
- 4,041.61 Terry Goodykoontz,Florida
- 3,898.14 Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 2,796.11 Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
- 2,723.71 Chuck Young-Peoria
- 2,654.93 Margaret Hansell-Champaign
- 2,506.93 John Maloney-Champaign
- 2,148.03 Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
- 2,139.01 Marilyn Stickel-Laon
- 1,553.43 Wes Seitz-Champaign
- 1,256.99 Bill Strauss-Urbana
- 1,141.82 Darryl Bremner-Clinton
- 1,130.24 Bill Thompson-Estero,FL
- 893.60 Ray Dostal-Independence,IA
- 862.85 Connie Tucker-Champaign
- 785.38 Melda Richardson-California
- 686.45 John Ford-Harvard,MA
- 650.68 Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
- 625.63 Lane O'Connor-Naperville
- 579.36 Barry Mayworm-Princeton
- 514.96 Rich Hagenhauer-Peoria
- 504.25 Lynn Steffen-El Paso





# IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

with Larry Matheny



**The next 4 columns appear on the next 4 pages:**

## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY #52 with Larry Matheny

Here is another hand that shows how important overtricks are in matchpoint (pairs) events. See how you would have done.

Scoring: Matchpoints

<p>Hand #52 Dir N Vul E-W</p>	<p>♠ 652 ♥ Q83 ♦ AK75 ♣ K103</p>	<p>♠ J743 ♥ J6 ♦ 9832 ♣ 986</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">West</th> <th style="text-align: left;">North</th> <th style="text-align: left;">East</th> <th style="text-align: left;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1NT</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♣*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>6♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	West	North	East	South		1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♠	Pass	6♣	All				Pass			
West	North	East	South																								
	1♦	Pass	1♠																								
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣*																								
Pass	2♠	Pass	6♣																								
All																											
Pass																											
<p>♠ 10 ♥ 10742 ♦ QJ10 ♣ QJ752</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	<p>♠ AKQ98 ♥ AK95 ♦ 64 ♣ A4</p>																									

\*New Minor Forcing

**BIDDING:** North rebid 1NT to show a balanced 12-14 point hand. South bid an artificial 2♣ (New Minor Forcing) to find out if his partner held spade support. North's 2♠ bid showed three card support but a minimum raise. South felt there should be some play for slam so he bid it. He decided to bid 6♣ instead of 6NT in case he needed to ruff a heart in dummy.

**PLAY:** West led the queen of diamonds and South could count twelve tricks as long as the trump suit wasn't a problem. And a thirteenth trick was there if the hearts divided 3-3. Unfortunately, those same tricks would be available for those in 6NT. First things first, he led the top two trumps to find the bad break. It was easy to reach dummy to take the spade finesse, draw trumps, and he was back up to twelve tricks. Now in search of the overtrick, at trick one East played the nine of diamonds to show his partner he also held the eight so no squeeze was likely that included the diamond suit. But, if West held four or more hearts along with the club queen and jack, he could be squeezed. It was a long shot but it didn't cost anything to try. Accordingly, South played the king of diamonds, the top three hearts, and then the last trump. West now had to discard from: ♥10 and the ♣QJ7 while dummy was behind him with the ♣K103 and declarer held the ♥9. Obviously this same squeeze is available to those in 6NT but it is always important to try for the extra trick.

Note that all we did to execute the squeeze was to play off our winners. However, when you entered dummy to take the spade finesse, I hope you didn't use the king of clubs. That will ruin the squeeze.

## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY #53 with Larry Matheny

The double has many roles in modern bridge. Gone are the days when it was used only to punish the overbidders. Today it can be for takeout, penalty, showing a control, asking for a control, or simply card (value) showing. Here is an example.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #53 Dir W Vul N-S	♠ KJ1076 ♥ AJ6 ♦ 753 ♣ AQ	♠ A2 ♥ 32 ♦ KJ86 ♣ J9532	<b>West</b> <b>North</b> <b>East</b> <b>South</b> Pass   1♣   Pass   1NT* 2♥   Pass   Pass   DBL Pass   3NT   All Pass
♠ 9854 ♥ KQ1084 ♦ 4 ♣ 874	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ Q3 ♥ 975 ♦ AQ1092 ♣ K106	

\*forcing

**BIDDING:** The North-South pair use the popular 2/1 bidding system with five-card majors and a forcing 1NT response. In this system, a 2♦ response would be game forcing so South bid 1NT over his partner's 1♠. West, who had passed originally, now bid 2♥ on very skimpy values. North was tempted to double but passed in case his partner was very weak. South had extra values so he doubled to show a tolerance for the other suits with no fit in spades. North might have passed and defended 2♥ but at this vulnerability he realized they would have to defeat the contract four tricks to improve on the +600 available in no-trump.

**PLAY:** West led his fourth best heart that rode around to declarer's nine. South's queen of spades then lost to the ace. East saw there was no future in hearts and switched to a low diamond. South won with the nine and soon had 12 tricks: 4 spades, 2 hearts, 3 diamonds, and 3 clubs.

Note that West would probably be able to make five tricks in 2♥ doubled for -500. The vulnerability is very important and your bidding must take this into consideration. If West had been vulnerable, down three would be -800. The double is a very versatile and deadly tool.

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## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY #54 with Larry Matheny

The Roman Keycard convention is used to ask partner how many keycards (aces plus the king of the agreed trump suit) he holds. A useful feature of the convention is the ability to ask about the trump queen. See if you could have stayed out of this slam.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #54 Dir W Vul N-S	♠ A854 ♥ AJ6 ♦ K4 ♣ AQJ9				
		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
♠ QJ10	♠ 9	Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
♥ 109	♥ 87543	Pass	4♠	Pass	4NT*
♦ A9632	♦ 875	Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
♣ 874	♣ 6532	Pass	5♠	All Pass	
	♠ K7632				
	♥ KQ2				
	♦ QJ10				
	♣ K10				

\*Roman Keycard

**BIDDING:** North's leap to 4♠ showed 19+ points in support of spades. South knew they were in the slam zone and bid 4NT to ask about keycards. The 5♣ response showed 0-3 so South knew they were missing one keycard. His 5♦ bid asked about the queen of spades and North's return to the spade suit denied it. Knowing they were off a keycard and the trump queen, South gave up on slam.

**PLAY:** West led the diamond ace and waited on his spade trick. Many of the pairs reached the slam and felt very unlucky. It's true the slam would have succeeded if the outstanding trumps had divided 2-2, but that only occurs 40% of the time which makes it a bad proposition. At matchpoint scoring (pairs), you should not push for close games or slams. Take your plus scores.

This convention is very helpful but can also be dangerous. Be sure to research it and discuss with your partner before adding it to your card.

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## IMPROVE YOUR PLAY #55 with Larry Matheny

When declaring it is essential to keep good communications between your hand and dummy. This is particularly true when entries are scarce. Here is a good example.

Scoring: Matchpoints

<p>Hand #55 Dir S Vul N-S</p>	<p>♠ 1093 ♥ A85 ♦ KQ76 ♣ 653</p>	<p>♠ 76 ♥ J1097 ♦ 942 ♣ AJ74</p>	<p>♠ KQJ842 ♥ J1085 ♦ K98</p>	<p>♠ A5 ♥ KQ6432 ♦ A3 ♣ Q102</p>																								
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Pass	3♦	Pass	4♥																									
All																												
Pass																												

**BIDDING:** After receiving a raise from his partner, South with extra values made a game try by asking for help in the club suit. North's 3♦ bid denied help in clubs but indicated a good raise with diamond cards. With a weaker raise, North would have signed off in 3♥. South then bid the game.

**PLAY:** West led the king of spades won by South. Declarer saw that he could discard his spade loser on a diamond honor so that left him with only three probable club losers as long as the hearts behaved. He next played the heart king and received the bad news that he was going to lose a heart trick. To succeed, he must now hold his clubs losers to two. He had to find the top two club honors split as well as the jack in the East hand. It also meant leading toward his hand twice. He had to get rid of his spade loser before leading clubs so he played the top three diamonds discarding the spade. He then led a club to his ten. West won with the king and played another high spade. Declarer trumped and led the queen and another heart to get to dummy. He then led a second club and made the hand when East rose with the ace.

Note you will go down if you first lead a heart to the ace. That entry must be saved for later in the hand.



## Bloomington-Normal 70% club Year 2023-24 only

2024/4/8	72.28%	Tom Teeters & Steve Wulfers
2024/4/3	70.14%	Cindy Moore & Jeff Furler
2024/3/13	76.04%	Chris Benson & Steve Babin
2024/3/5	72.22%	Clindy Lake & Terry Huebsch(749ers)
2023/12/4	71.43%	Dick Dubroff & Mike Gross(social meets duplicate)
2023/11/19	73.41%	Darryl Bremner & Kirk Kimmell
2023/9/30	73.01%	Sallie Boge & Barry Kurz
2023/9/30	70.00%	Dick Dubroff & Mike Gross(social meets duplicate)
2023/9/25	72.33%	Chris Benson & John Seng
2023/9/18	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

### #9 – A DOUBLE ORDER OF DUCK

	♠ K74 ♥ A987 ♦ A9743 ♣ Q	
♠ QJT3 ♥ 4 ♦ JT6 ♣ T8652	<i>North</i>  <i>West</i> <i>East</i>  <i>South</i>	♠ 9865 ♥ 53 ♦ Q8 ♣ A9743
	♠ A2 ♥ KQJT62 ♦ K52 ♣ KJ	

#### None Vulnerable

	South	West	North	East
			1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass	Pass
6♥	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

West leads the ♠Q and, when Dummy goes down, Declarer can see that his 6♥ contract is quite hopeless. The ♣A must be lost and there is no way to avoid a Diamond loser. Declarer will win the opening Spade, draw trumps and then cash the ♦K and ♦A before conceding the third round of Diamonds. When West wins the ♦J, he will quickly shift to a Club, and East's ♣A scores the setting trick before Declarer's Clubs disappear on the long Diamonds. Down one.

But that's not what happened! It's true, looking at all four hands, that 6♥ *should* go down, but West was looking at only two hands. Taking advantage of that, Declarer came up with a truly brilliant deception. He ducked the opening lead in both hands! The defense can now cash the ♣A to beat the contract, but it never occurred to West that his partner might have the ♣A and not the ♠A. So, naturally enough, West persisted with Spades. Imagine West's surprise when Declarer's Ace won the second Spade trick! Next, trumps were drawn, a Diamond was pitched on the ♠K, the ♦K was cashed, then the ♦A, and a Diamond was ruffed. Now there were two good Diamonds in Dummy, on which Declarer was able to pitch his losing Clubs. Making 12 tricks!

A most unusual hand! Declarer started out with an inescapable loser in Diamonds and another in Clubs. But, thanks to that lovely first round double duck, he ended up losing a Spade but nothing else!



## #10 – A PRACTICE FINESSE

The humble finesse is the first thing we learn, and we also learn that some finesses win, some lose. Later we learn that some finesses are purely for practice and serve no useful purpose. Here is a case in point.

	♠ QJ965 ♥ KJ97 ♦ A2 ♣ AQ	
♠ 843 ♥ ♦ KJ983 ♣ J9875	North West                  East South	♠ ♥ Q65432 ♦ QT4 ♣ KT63
	♠ AKT72 ♥ AT8 ♦ 765 ♣ 42	

### Both Vulnerable

South West North East

1♠ 2NT Dbl 5♣

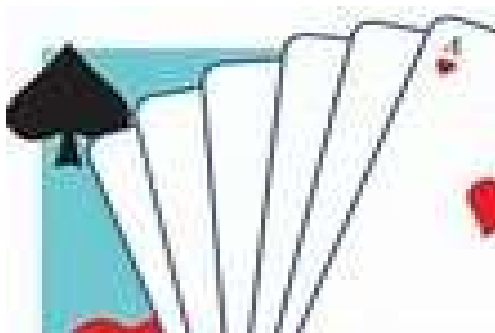
Pass Pass 6♠ All Pass

West's 2NT was the "Unusual No Trump", showing both minors, and North eventually plunged (some would say recklessly) into slam. West leads a Club, your job is to make 12 tricks.

A Diamond loser is unavoidable, so you must guess the whereabouts of the ♥Q if this slam is to make. And then there is the small matter of the Club suit. Do you take the finesse? Surprisingly, it's not necessary! We've already determined that you need to bring in the Hearts, and if that is the case then the 4<sup>th</sup> round of Hearts can be used to pitch the Club loser.

OK, you hop up with the ♣A, and draw trumps, ending on the board. Who has the ♥Q? Surely East! West's bidding showed both minors (usually 5-5) and later he played three Spades. That doesn't leave room for many Hearts! So, Declarer runs the ♥J around and West predictably shows out. Another Heart finesse, the ♥A is cashed, over to the ♦A, then the Club loser goes on the ♥K. Making 12 tricks, losing just a Diamond.

Getting the Heart suit right did not require rocket science. Realizing that the Club finesse was not needed? Not so obvious. The winning train of thought was: I must lose a Diamond ... so I cannot lose a Heart ... if I don't lose a Heart then I can park the losing Club on the 4<sup>th</sup> round of Hearts.



## #11 – FINESSES ARE EASY

Of course they are! You just lead towards the AQ or KJ or some such holding, and, when fate is kind, an extra trick materializes. But, if they can, experienced players will avoid the whims of fate, as in this deal.

♠ JT765
♥ 652
♦ A7
♣ AT8

### Both Vulnerable

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

♠ 98	North	♠ 4
♥ QJT7	West	♥ 983
♦ KJ6	East	♦ QT9852
♣ Q652	South	♣ K97
♠ AKQ32		
♥ AK4		
♦ 43		
♣ J43		

West leads the ♥Q, and Declarer can see a certain loser in Hearts and another in Diamonds. So, if 4♠ is to make, then Declarer must avoid losing two Clubs. Any ideas?

One way to play Clubs (after drawing trumps) is to finesse the Ten, hoping that West has the King *and* the Queen. That's somewhat unlikely (around 25%). Another possibility is to finesse the *Eight*, and later finesse the Ten,

hoping that West has K9 or Q9. That's a 37% chance. Or, Declarer might run the Jack, giving himself the extra chance that West might neglect to cover with his honor.

Which finesse will you choose? The correct answer is that you don't care for *any* of these finesses, you much prefer the 100% method! Draw trumps, cash the red suit winners and exit with a Heart (or a Diamond). The defenders can take their Heart and Diamond tricks but now their goose is cooked. If they lead another red card then Declarer pitches a Club loser from one hand and ruffs in the other hand (the so-called "ruff and sluff"). And if they break open Clubs then Declarer will lose only one trick in the suit. Yes, finesses are easy, especially when you can avoid taking them!



## #12 – ONE FINESSE TOO MANY

It's great when our finesse works, but against a cunning opponent, when we try that same finesse a second time, we sometimes get an unpleasant surprise.

	♠ J ♥ QJT ♦ T97 ♣ AJT954	
♠ 862 ♥ K953 ♦ 865 ♣ Q87	North  West                  East  South	♠ 73 ♥ 872 ♦ K432 ♣ K632
	♠ AKQT954 ♥ A64 ♦ AQJ ♣	

### *N-S Vulnerable*

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

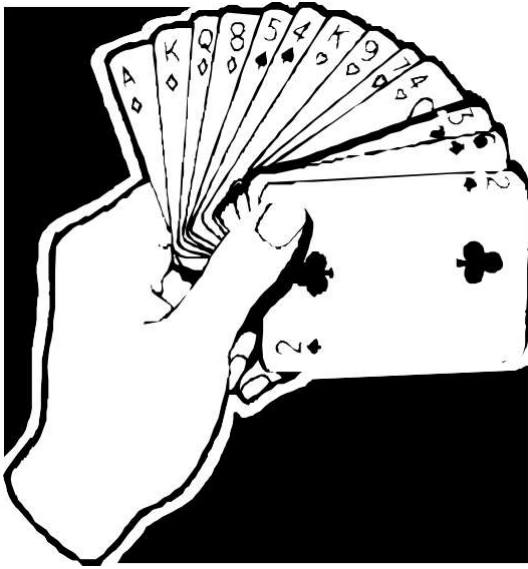
After that artificial (and strong) 2♣ opening, the rest of the auction was natural. West leads a trump against your slam, how do you propose to make 12 tricks?

It may be too late already, but let's do this one without peeking at the E-W hands. The opening trump lead has knocked out your entry to Dummy, and you must use that entry to take one of those red suit finesses. Which one? Surely it must be right to finesse in Hearts because, if that loses to West,

you'll have a Heart entry back to the board for the Diamond finesse.

So, the ♥Q is led from the board and it holds. Yippee! Now Dummy's ♣A is cashed (pitching a Diamond) and the winning Heart finesse is repeated. Oops! This time that dastardly West fellow produces the King! Even worse, Declarer now has no way of avoiding a Diamond loser also. Down one! When the first Heart finesse worked, Declarer took his eye off the ball. He must realize that a second Heart finesse is unnecessary. After the ♥Q wins, the 100% safe line is to cash the ♣A (pitching a *Heart*), ruff a Club high (just in case there is an overruff in the cards), then draw trumps and give up a Diamond.





**Please see schedules on page 1**



**AMERICAN CONTRACT  
BRIDGE LEAGUE**

— DEALING INFINITE POSSIBILITIES —