



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 26 Number 6 – June, 2024



June 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 – NO GAME 6/12

Wednesdays, 12:30pm – 299ers only pairs(if attendance warrants)

Wednesdays, 12:30pm – social plus – EXCEPT 6/12

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 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 5/7/2024 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



1	5,146.09	Steve Babin
2	3,737.01	Zach Freehill
3	3,654.10	Eunice Patton
4	3,444.77	Cindy Moore
5	2,730.44	Mike Tomlianovich
6	2,563.48	Ann Schuyler
7	2,547.67	Lori Moore
8	2,107.83	Joyce Clay
9	2,024.35	Ron Emmett
10	1,711.21	Jeff Furler
11	1,435.44	Steve Wulfers
12	927.01	Barb Neuges
13	887.28	Dave Freehill
14	864.98	Sallie Boge
15	806.98	Fred Spitzzeri
16	777.08	Larry Ziegler
17	612.49	Mary Cralley
18	591.59	Chris Zogg
19	587.24	Rick Dalton
20	516.20	John Cralley
21	501.99	Pat Lebeck
22	488.14	Gene Byers
23	431.51	Kay Marvin
24	416.16	Marilyn Byers
25	365.28	Joyce Werner

more players:

14,104.58	Chris Benson-LeRoy
6,403.20	Larry Matheny-Ft Collins CO
6,093.57	Ron Sholes-Springfield
5,830.05	John Seng-Champaign
5,117.73	Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
4,862.01	Paul Lindauer-Chicago
4,096.65	Mary Allen-Peoria
4,050.40	Terry Goodykoontz,Florida
4,046.40	JoAnn Schroeder-Appleton,WI
3,898.14	Carole Sholes-Springfield
2,799.12	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
2,734.39	Chuck Young-Peoria
2,654.93	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
2,506.93	John Maloney-Champaign
2,193.13	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
2,141.91	Marilyn Stickel-Laon
1,557.94	Wes Seitz-Champaign
1,258.77	Bill Strauss-Urbana
1,160.84	Darryl Bremner-Canton
1,140.24	Bill Thompson-Estero,FL
893.60	Ray Dostal-Independence,IA
872.61	Connie Tucker-Champaign
785.38	Melda Richardson-California
691.84	John Ford-Harvard,MA
654.94	Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
625.63	Lane O'Connor-Naperville
587.56	Barry Mayworm-Princeton
525.37	Lynn Steffen-El Paso
517.71	Rich Hagenhauer-Peoria





IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

with Larry Matheny



The next 4 columns appear on the next 4 pages:

IMPROVE YOUR PLAY #56 with Larry Matheny

A careful declarer will formulate a plan before playing to the first trick. However, that plan may have to be modified as the hand develops. Take a look at this example.

Scoring: IMPs

Hand #56 Dir S Vul E-W	♠ 42 ♥ Q1084 ♦ A6 ♣ K10953					
♠ 1086 ♥ K763 ♦ QJ1097 ♣ 4	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ K973 ♥ AJ5 ♦ 84 ♣ J876	West Pass Pass	North 2♣ 3NT	East Pass All Pass	South 1NT 2♠

BIDDING: South had a standard 1NT opener and North used Stayman to look for a possible heart fit. South showed four spades but denied holding four hearts, so North leaped to game on the basis of his nine high card points and five-card club suit.

PLAY: West led the queen of diamonds and South stopped to count his tricks. This was a team game so overtricks were not a concern. He could count one spade, two diamonds, and very likely five clubs with the spade suit offering a source for the extra trick. There were few entries to dummy so declarer won the first trick in his hand. He then played the ace and queen of clubs but stopped when West discarded a heart on the second round. Now South only had four club tricks so he now needed three spade tricks. To finesse twice in spades meant creating another entry to dummy so declarer overtook the club queen with the king to lead a low spade toward his hand. He won the trick with the spade jack and next led a club to dummy's ten. East won the jack but declarer now had nine tricks. The ace of diamonds was an entry back to dummy to cash the last two clubs and then repeat the spade finesse.

Note the importance of keeping the diamond ace in dummy to be used as a later entry. Many contracts are lost due to hasty play at trick one.

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IMPROVE YOUR PLAY #57 with Larry Matheny

There are many conventions available to you and your partners. Some are helpful but some get people into trouble when they haven't thoroughly researched them. Here is an example of one that can be useful.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #57 Dir S Vul N-S	♠ 643 ♥ K3 ♦ AQ73 ♣ KJ98				
♠ AKJ1092 ♥ QJ4 ♦ 102 ♣ 103	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ 87 ♥ 107652 ♦ 8654 ♣ 72	West North East South	1NT 2♠ Pass 4♣ 3NT Pass 5♣ All Pass	1NT 4♣
	♠ Q5 ♥ A98 ♦ KJ9 ♣ AQ654				

BIDDING: South had a standard 1NT opener and West couldn't resist bidding his great spade suit. This North-South pair uses the Lebensohl convention which has several nice features. One of these is North's jump to 3NT told his partner that he had the values for game, but did NOT have a spade stopper. With a spade honor, North would have first bid 2NT relaying South to 3C and then bid 3NT. South knew it was time to start scrambling so he bid his lowest suit. This found North with great support so they quickly ended up in 5♣ rather than a doomed 3NT.

PLAY: West took the top two spade tricks and South claimed the rest. Without this convention, what would you bid with the North hand? If you double 2♠, you will only earn +300 or +500 compared to the +600 for making a vulnerable game. Once again, vulnerability is an important factor. Of course you have noticed that if West had resisted the urge to overcall, he would have undoubtedly captured the first six tricks defending 3NT.

Like most conventions, there is much to learn about Lebensohl before you and your partner agree to use it.

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IMPROVE YOUR PLAY #06-01 with Larry Matheny

It's often easy to reach your best contract when the opponents remain silent, but when there is interference, look out. I can describe this hand with two words: preempts work! Take a look.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #1 Dir E Vul N-S	♠ KJ10954 ♥ 3 ♦ ♣ KJ9832	♠ 872 ♥ 52 ♦ KQJ654 ♣ 76	♠ AQ63 ♥ Q1074 ♦ 9873 ♣ 10	♠ ♥ AKJ986 ♦ A102 ♣ AQ54	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">West</th> <th style="width: 25%;">North</th> <th style="width: 25%;">East</th> <th style="width: 25%;">South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2♦</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5♦</td> <td>DBL</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>5♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	West	North	East	South			2♦	3♥	5♦	DBL	Pass	5♥	All Pass			
West	North	East	South																		
		2♦	3♥																		
5♦	DBL	Pass	5♥																		
All Pass																					

BIDDING: East opened a weak two bid and South felt his hand was too good to merely overcall. A takeout double followed by a heart bid might work but might also encourage his partner to bid spades. He finally settled on a jump to 3♥ to show extra values and a good suit. Looking at favorable vulnerability, West leaped to 5♦ to put maximum pressure on his opponents. North had values but no hearts and finally decided to double. South closed the auction by rebidding his hearts, a questionable decision since his first bid showed a good suit and North did not raise.

PLAY: West led a diamond and declarer ruffed in dummy. There was no way for South to avoid losing two hearts and a diamond for down one when he was cold for a grand slam in clubs. Without the preempts, North would be able to show both of his suits and at least a small slam would likely be reached.

Note that East-West would be down three in 5♦ doubled for -500. That makes it a good sacrifice over 4♥ which would score +620. Once again vulnerability was an important factor.

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IMPROVE YOUR PLAY #06-02 with Larry Matheny

It's probably safe to say that most bridge players enjoy declaring more than defending. However, since you defend approximately half of the hands, it pays to be a good defender. Here is an interesting hand.

Scoring: Matchpoints

Hand #2 Dir E Vul N-S	♠ A1054 ♥ 76 ♦ 3 ♣ QJ9832		West North East South	
♠ K93 ♥ 432 ♦ Q1087 ♣ K105	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ Q872 ♥ K109 ♦ J654 ♣ 76	Pass 1♠ 3♥ All Pass	Pass 1♥ Pass 3♦ Pass 4♥
♠ J6 ♥ AQJ85 ♦ AK92 ♣ A4				

BIDDING: Holding 19 high card points, South wasn't sure what to rebid. His choices were 2♦, 2NT, or an aggressive 3♦. He finally decided to force to game with his jumpshift. Now the problem swung to North. He could bid 3NT or since it sounded like his partner had a red two-suiter, give a preference to hearts. He finally decided his diamond shortness would be helpful in a heart contract and chose 3♥ and South continued on to game.

PLAY: West realized South would very likely need to ruff diamonds in dummy so he led a trump. It was now East's turn to shine. He realized if declarer ruffed a diamond in dummy, his king would later be a winner. Accordingly, he played the nine at trick one. South won with the jack and played ace and a second diamond ruffed with dummy's last trump. South next led the club queen for a finesse. West won the king and made the killing shift to the king of spades. South was now doomed as he could not avoid the loss of a spade, the heart king, and the nine of diamonds. If West leads any card other than the spade king, declarer has ten tricks. Note a low spade would lose to East's queen but declarer would unblock the jack and later finesse the spade ten to discard a loser on the spade ace. If West did not dislodge the spade ace, declarer would merely play ace and another trump and discard his losers on the club suit.

The successful declarers ended in 3NT which cannot be defeated.



Bloomington-Normal 70% club Year 2023-24 only

2024/5/20	71/05%	Helen Basehore & Gaye Hoselton(social meets duplicate)
2024/4/29	70.24%	Steve Wulfers & Steve Babin
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



#13 – NO SAFE EXIT

This month's deals have been about finessing. In earlier weeks we were trying to avoid them in favor of better alternatives. But this week, we are actually going to take a finesse. Eventually.

None Vulnerable

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

♠ AQ654 ♥ K843 ♦ K7 ♣ 76	North	♠ K8 ♥ T ♦ T8432 ♣ 85432
♠ JT9 ♥ 65 ♦ J965 ♣ QJT9	West East	
♠ 732 ♥ AQJ972 ♦ AQ ♣ AK	South	

N-S take the express lane to 6♥ and West leads the ♣Q. You will win that and draw trumps in two rounds, but then what? You have 11 tricks, can you find the 12th?

This hand appears to depend on a successful Spade finesse and, if the ♠K is with West, then 6♥ makes. But that King is with East on the actual lie of the cards. Does that mean it's down one? Not at all! Having drawn trumps, Declarer cashes those minor suit winners, and leads a Spade to the Ace. Then he crosses back to hand with a trump and leads a Spade towards the Queen. East wins the King but has no safe exit. With nothing left but minor

suit cards, whatever he plays will give Declarer a ruff and sluff. Declarer will pitch the Spade loser from his hand and ruff on the board. Making 12 tricks.

Taking the delayed finesse gave Declarer a second way to win. He would still make his slam whenever West had the ♠K, and he would also succeed when the King was doubleton with East. But only if Declarer cashes his minor suit winners first, forcing East to concede that ruff and sluff after winning the doubleton King.



#14 – A COUPLE OF UPPER-CUTS

This month we take a look at “trump promotion”. Put yourself in the West seat, defending 4♠.

Both Vulnerable

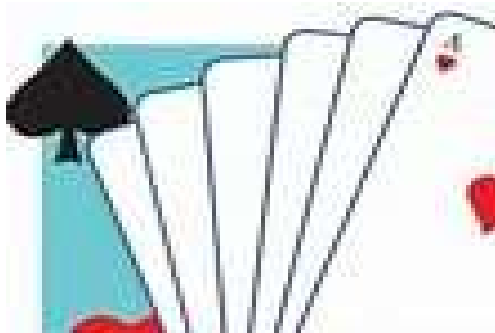
South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♦	4♥
4♠	All Pass		

♠ T9 ♥ J ♦ AQJ32 ♣ Q5432	North West East South	♠ 64 ♥ KQ986532 ♦ 6 ♣ 76
♠ J87 ♥ A ♦ 98754 ♣ AKT8	South ♠ AKQ532 ♥ T74 ♦ KT ♣ J9	

To start with, please locate a sheet of paper or your morning slice of toast (marmalade side facing up). Place it diagonally across the diagram, so that only the West and North hands are showing. As West, your opening lead is the ♣A on which Partner plays the Seven and Declarer the Nine. Next, you cash the ♣K (everyone following the suit), then the ♥A. You’ve cashed your three winners, where’s the setting trick? A Diamond ruff? No, Partner had two Clubs, and can hardly have more than two Spades. He cannot have 2=9=0=2 distribution, with that shape he would surely have pushed on to 5♥. The only other possibility is a trump trick. Yes, indeed! The magic card here, amazingly enough, is the Spade Six! You lead another Club, and if

East ruffs with the Six he forces Declarer to overruff with an honor, promoting a trick for your ♠J! This form of trump promotion is known as an upper-cut, and East must ruff with the Smashing Six to deliver the knock-out blow. Ruffing with the Feeble Four would be no more than a tickle under Declarer’s chin.

A Second Upper-Cut! Next, imagine that *East* is Declarer, playing in 4♥. South cashes the ♠A, ♠K, and leads a third Spade, which North ruffs with the ♥J. Another upper-cut, promoting South’s ♥T? No, Declarer simply pitches away his Diamond loser and makes his contract. Let’s have a do over. After cashing the top two Spades, South cashes the ♦K, and *then* leads the third Spade. Now Declarer really is done for, this time the upper-cut sets the contract.



#15 – A CHOICE OF PROMOTIONS

Continuing this month's theme, here is a hand where E-W can beat South's 3♥ contract in one of two ways, each involving a trump promotion.

♠ JT7
♥ 98
♦ AQ54
♣ 9543

None Vulnerable

East	South	West	North
2♠	3♥	All Pass	

♠ K2	North	♠ AQ8653
♥ Q2	West	♥ J3
♦ JT32	East	♦ 987
♣ AKJT7	South	♣ 62
♠ 94		
♥ AKT7654		
♦ K6		
♣ Q8		

East's 2♠ was a "Weak Two", showing a 6-card suit and less than opening values.

With trumps 2-2, it may appear that the defense can manage four black suit winners and nothing else. But, no, the defense can also rustle up a trump trick! West cashes the ♣A and ♣K and leads a third Club. East must ruff with the Jack and now the defense has a trump trick, because an overruff by Declarer sets up West's ♠Q. But you see the snag? Yes, of course,

Declarer won't overruff, instead she'll dump a Spade loser, still making 9 tricks.

Let's try it a different way. This time the defense starts out by cashing its *Spade* winners, and, at Trick 3, East leads another Spade. As before, this promotes a trump trick for the defense, whether Declarer ruffs high or low. But, she won't do either, again she'll wriggle out of her predicament by pitching a loser, this time it will be a Club.

OK, here's the defense's last chance to get it right! They must cash *all four* of their side-suit tricks first. So, the ♣A, ♣K, ♠K, ♠Q take the first four tricks. Now, at Trick 5, another Spade from East dooms Declarer. The defense having cashed all their winners first, Declarer has no losers left to pitch, and this time the trump promotion produces a 5th trick. Down one!

Post Script It may be trump promotion overkill, but there is even a *third* one on this deal. Picture East declaring 2♠ (perhaps South was snoozing through the auction). The ♥A, ♥K are cashed, then the three Diamond winners. When North leads a fourth Diamond, Declarer is helpless, and the defense has conjured up the setting trick in trumps.



#16 – DON'T OVERRUFF!

This week you are South, defending 3♠. You must make *three* good plays in order to beat this contract. Are you up to the challenge?

	♠ K5 ♥ AKT98 ♦ J ♣ KJ985	
♠ 2 ♥ Q764 ♦ KQ752 ♣ QT4	North <i>Dummy Declarer</i> South	♠ QJT9743 ♥ 53 ♦ AT3 ♣ A
	♠ A86 ♥ J2 ♦ 9864 ♣ 7632	

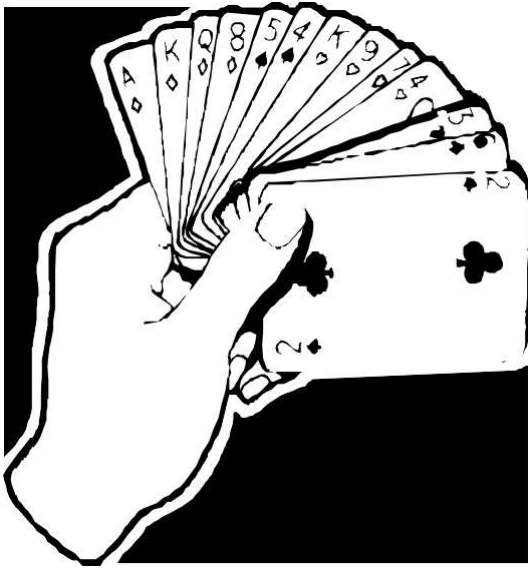
Both Vulnerable

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

Before you take your place in the South seat, let's admire Declarer's robust Spade suit. The ♠T and ♠9 are big cards! After the high enemy Spades have been knocked out, those intermediates can look after the rest of the suit. In fact, even if the trumps split 4-1, that lovely Spade Nine will come to the rescue and make sure that the enemy ♠8 does no damage. Well, "Phooey!" is what N-S have to say to about that. They are about to score their lowly ♠8, even though trumps are 3-2!

Sitting South, you lead the ♥J. That holds the trick, Partner playing the Ten. You lead another Heart, this one being won by Partner's Eight. Declarer ruffs the third round with the ♠9, and it's time for your first good play. *Don't overruff!* Now Declarer leads the ♠Q, and you make your second good play, *you duck your Ace!* Well, perhaps that play was not so brilliant, there was no rush to take that trick. And, anyway, you would look extremely foolish if your Ace crashed Partner's singleton King! As it happens, Partner wins the trick with the ♠K and, with relentless single-mindedness, leads another round of Hearts. Declarer ruffs with the Ten and it's time for the third good play. *Don't overruff!* That's right, your stubborn refusal, on three occasions, to play the ♠A has orchestrated a trump promotion! The defense scores two Hearts and three trumps for down one. Who would have thought that **A86** would produce *two* natural trump tricks?





Please see schedules on page 1



**AMERICAN CONTRACT
BRIDGE LEAGUE**

— DEALING INFINITE POSSIBILITIES —