

Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 26 Number 11 – November, 2024



November 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(all November games are CANCELLED)

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

Wednesdays, 12:30pm – social plus(6th & 13th meet at Mike's Bridge Room; 20th and 27th are CANCELLED)

Contact Mike Tomlianovich at 309-825-5823 for more information.

See local tournament schedule later in this newsletter.

Online(BBO) bridge available at:

Tuesdays, 6:50pm – 749ers 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 9/7/2024 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



- 1 5,275.94 Steve Babin
- 2 3,741.29 Zach Freehill
- 3 3,726.57 Eunice Patton
- 4 3,564.61 Cindy Moore
- 5 2,794.84 Mike Tomlianovich
- 6 2,666.28 Lori Moore
- 7 2,627.79 Ann Schuyler
- 8 2,214.63 Joyce Clay
- 9 2,073.18 Ron Emmett
- 10 1,772.62 Jeff Furler
- 11 1,476.37 Steve Wulfers
- 12 935.22 Barb Neuges
- 13 888.32 Dave Freehill
- 14 886.06 Sallie Boge
- 15 855.61 Larry Ziegler
- 16 834.55 Fred Spitzzeri
- 17 624.31 Rick Dalton
- 18 619.33 Mary Cralley
- 19 618.07 Chris Zogg
- 20 548.33 Pat Lebeck
- 21 521.85 John Cralley
- 22 503.68 Kay Marvin
- 23 500.72 Gene Byers
- 24 429.93 Marilyn Byers
- 25 365.28 Joyce Werner

Moreplayers:

- 14,313.58 Chris Benson-LeRoy
- 6,128.81 Ron Sholes-Springfield
- 5,933.24 John Seng-Champaign
- 5,248.27 Leonard Kaufman-Peoria
- 4,983.89 Paul Lindauer-Chicago
- 4,196.52 Mary Allen-Peoria
- 4,113.17 Terry Goodykoontz,Florida
- 4,054.88 JoAnn Schroeder-Appleton,WI
- 3,898.14 Carole Sholes-Springfield
- 2,810.73 Hank Hoffman-Morton
- 2,810.66 Chuck Young-Peoria
- 2,654.93 Margaret Hansell-Champaign
- 2,547.13 John Maloney-Champaign
- 2,296.83 Bill Bulfer-Peoria Heights
- 2,170.90 Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
- 1,593.30 Wes Seitz-Champaign
- 1,260.23 Bill Strauss-Urbana
- 1,228.70 Darryl Bremner-Clinton
- 1,175.70 Bill Thompson-Fortmeyer B,FL
- 953.20 Connie Tucker-Champaign
- 893.60 Ray Dostal-Independence,IA
- 789.99 Melda Richardson-California
- 727.42 John Ford-Harvard,MA
- 691.25 Kirk Kimmel-Peoria
- 648.48 Barry Mayworm-Princeton
- 625.63 Lane O'Connor-Naperville
- 589.93 Lynn Steffen-El Paso
- 548.19 Rich Hagenhauer-Peoria





IMPROVE YOUR PLAY

with Larry Matheny (in memorium)



The next 4 columns appear on the next 4 pages:

IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

Defense is difficult and sometimes the opening lead is the difference between failure and success. This hand is from a recent team game.

Scoring: Team Game (IMPs)

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Hand #19 Dir S Vul none | ♠ 73 ♥ Q853 ♦ QJ72 ♣ AQ7 | | | | | |
| ♠ AQ842 ♥ J64 ♦ K5 ♣ J105 | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> | ♠ 10965 ♥ 102 ♦ 83 ♣ K8643 | West 1♠ All Pass | North DBL | East 3♠* | South 1♦ 4♥ |
| | ♠ KJ ♥ AK97 ♦ A10964 ♣ 92 | | | | | |

*Weak

BIDDING: South should have opened 1NT since he would have a rebid problem over a 1♠ response. However, West overcalled 1♠ and North made a negative double promising four hearts along with the values to play at the two-level. East made a weak jump raise and South bid the heart game.

PLAY: West decided to lead a trump hoping his partner could get in to lead a spade. Declarer saw the danger of letting East into the lead so he drew trumps and then led the queen of diamonds. West won and shifted to a club but South went up with the ace. He quickly played four more diamonds discarding a spade from dummy. Declarer made four losing one spade, one diamond, and one club.

At the other table, West led a club on opening lead and declarer had no choice but to take the finesse. East won the king and put the ten of spades on the table. This declarer ended up losing two spades, one diamond, and one club. Luck or good bridge? You be the judge.

Also note that the very bad lead of the ace of spades would allow South to easily succeed.

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IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

A good declarer will develop a plan for the entire hand before playing to trick one. It is important to review the bidding and try to place the missing high cards. This hand is a great example of those techniques.

Scoring: Pairs (Matchpoints)

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Hand #20 Dlr E Vul none | ♠ KQ5 ♥ Q104 ♦ J1094 ♣ K52 | | | | | |
| ♠ 82 ♥ J9762 ♦ ♣ AJ9864 | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> | ♠ AJ94 ♥ A5 ♦ 873 ♣ QJ73 | West 1♥ 5♣ Pass | North 2♦ Pass Pass | East 1♣ Pass Pass DBL | South 1♦ 3♦ 5♦ All Pass |
| | ♠ 10763 ♥ K83 ♦ AKQ652 ♣ | | | | | |

BIDDING: The auction started slowly but quickly picked up speed. North had a good hand and perhaps should have made a game try. West mentioned his weak heart suit before leaping to game. North should have doubled to stop his partner from bidding again but South with very little defense, bid one more. East who had started the auction doubled to end it.

PLAY: West made the unfortunate lead of the ace of clubs. Declarer saw he was in danger of losing two spades and one heart. A review of the auction told him the two missing aces were in the East hand. He saw a way to possibly eliminate one of his losers. He ruffed the ace of clubs with a high trump and led a low diamond to dummy. He then led a low heart toward his hand and East made the fatal error of ducking this trick as South won the king. Declarer now led another diamond to dummy, discarded a heart on the king of clubs, and ruffed dummy's last club in his hand. He next drew the last trump and led a heart to dummy's ten and East was endplayed. He had to either lead a spade or give declarer a ruff and a sluff. Hoping his partner held the spade ten, East led a low spade. South won with the ten and conceded a spade to the ace. Making five doubled was the top score.

East must see the end play coming and rise with the heart ace when the suit is first led. It is unlikely that this play will cost and it will avoid the ending that occurred.

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IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

It is important to be able to place the opponents' cards from the auction as well as from the play of the hand. This boldly bid contract gives you a chance to do both.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

| Hand #21 Dir E Vul E/W | ♠ AK102 ♥ 10 ♦ KJ102 ♣ J943 | ♠ QJ ♥ AK98 ♦ 84 ♣ AQ875 | ♠ 63 ♥ QJ643 ♦ Q965 ♣ K6 | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> | ♠ 98754 ♥ 752 ♦ A73 ♣ 102 | <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></td> <td>1♣</td> <td>Pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♥</td> <td>DBL</td> <td>3♥</td> <td>4♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | West | North | East | South | | | 1♣ | Pass | 1♥ | DBL | 3♥ | 4♠ | All Pass | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|------|-------|------|-------|--|--|----|------|----|-----|----|----|-------------|--|--|--|
| West | North | East | South | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 1♣ | Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1♥ | DBL | 3♥ | 4♠ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| All Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

BIDDING: Sitting South, after hearing my partner's takeout double showing spades and diamonds, I realized my weak hand was worth a lot more on offense than defense. So, looking at favorable vulnerability and expecting the opponents to probably make 4♥, I leaped to 4♠ hoping to go down only one or two tricks. I was surprised when the contract was not doubled.

PLAY: West led the queen of hearts and then shifted to the king and another club. As declarer I saw East-West could possibly make 4♥ but there was a good chance I had bid one too many. Reviewing the auction it seemed likely West had started with only two clubs and was now poised to over-ruff my spade. However, my only play was to ruff high and I was pleasantly surprised when West discarded a low heart. I now knew East had both spade honors and I quickly drew trumps with the ace and king. Next I had to find the diamond queen. The auction and the play of the hand disclosed that East had started with two spades, four hearts, and five clubs. That left room for only two diamonds. East had shown up with 16 high card points and might have doubled with more so I played West for the diamond queen and made the contract.

The important points of this hand: 1) the auction told me partner was going to be short in hearts, 2) my partner's t/o double allowed me to realize the importance of my 5th spade, and 3) the play of the hand gave me a count of the opponents' diamond holding. Note that East should not have played a third club allowing me to discover the location of the spade queen/jack. Also notice that East-West have four losers and would not have made game.

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IMPROVE YOUR PLAY with Larry Matheny

The successful player will use the available information to anticipate how the hand will develop. This is true as declarer and also when you are defending. Take a look at this example.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Hand #22 Dir W Vul E/W | ♠ 965 ♥ AJ104 ♦ A97 ♣ 962 | ♠ Q10 ♥ K52 ♦ K4 ♣ QJ8543 | West Pass 1♠ All Pass | North Pass 2♣ | East 1♣ Pass | South 1♥ 2♥ |
| ♠ AJ832 ♥ 3 ♦ Q10652 ♣ 107 | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> | ♠ K74 ♥ Q9876 ♦ J83 ♣ AK | | | | |

BIDDING: East opened a little light in third seat and South overcalled with a decent hand but weak suit. After West overcalled, North made a cue bid to show a good raise and ask about his partner's overcall. South knew game was unlikely opposite a passed hand and signed off in 2♥.

PLAY: West led the ten of clubs and declarer placed East with a six-card club suit. With seven he would likely have bid more and with only five, West would not have led the ten. After winning the first club, South led a heart from his hand for the losing finesse. Next East returned a spade and West quickly won three spades tricks before exiting with his last club. South drew one more round of trumps and stopped to reflect on what he had learned. It appeared East started with two spades, three hearts, two diamonds, and six clubs. Declarer knew that West needed one of the diamond honors to have enough to bid so they must be split. He next led a diamond to his ace and East erred by not dropping his king. After drawing a third round of trumps, declarer exited with a diamond to East who was now end-played. He had to lead a club allowing South to discard his diamond loser as he ruffed in dummy. South lost only three spades, one heart, and one diamond.

Note that East had a complete count of South's hand so his only hope was that West held the diamond queen. Keeping the diamond king in his hand was a no-win decision.

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Bloomington-Normal 70% club Year 2023-24 only

| | | |
|------------|--------|--|
| 2024/9/9 | 70.00% | Mike Tomlianovich & Steve Babin |
| 2024/9/2 | 72.62% | Cindy Moore & Mike Tomlianovich |
| 2024/8/28 | 70/83% | Chris Benson & Steve Babin |
| 2024/8/26 | 71.05% | Clarene Arnold & Jerry Grandon(social meets duplicate) |
| 2024/7/22 | 70.83% | Eunice Patton & Jeff Furler |
| 2024/7/15 | 77.44% | Jackie Schmidt & Kay Ann Criswell(social meets duplicate) |
| 2024/7/1 | 75% | Gaye Hoselton & Bob Bray(social meets duplicate) |
| 2024/5/29 | 72.49% | Cindy Moore & Jeff Furler |
| 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

#33 – THIRD HAND TRICKERY

“Third hand high” is common advice, and on this hand East plays “Third hand *extra* high” in order to fool Declarer.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| ♠ 9854 ♥ Q652 ♦ 8764 ♣ A | North West East Declarer | ♠ T73 ♥ AKJT9 ♦ QT2 ♣ Q2 |
| ♠ KJ6 ♥ 3 ♦ AKJ95 ♣ 8743 | | ♠ AQ2 ♥ 874 ♦ 3 ♣ KJT965 |

E-W Vulnerable

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

On defense, in third hand, it's standard procedure to win the trick with the lowest card possible, that's the best way to let Partner know what is going on. So, when West leads a low Heart against 5♣, East would normally win that trick with the King. But this week's East decided to win the opening trick with the ♥A, supposedly denying possession of the King. He then returned the ♥T. What was East up to?

To answer that question put yourself in Declarer's shoes. From East's play to the first two Heart tricks Declarer deduces that East does not have the King (he would have played it at Trick 1), nor does he have the Jack (he would have returned it at Trick 2). So, it appears that East started with ♥AQT9x. Based on this logic Declarer will calculate that East has a maximum of 8 HCP outside the Club suit. Now, when Dummy leads a low Club from the board and East plays low, how should Declarer guess? East needs the ♣A for his opening bid and must have started with ♣A2 or ♣AQ2, so let's not blame Declarer if he guesses wrong and goes up with the ♣K, playing East for ♣A2.

If East plays more routinely, winning the ♥K on the first round and continuing with the Ace, then he no longer needs the ♣A to make up his opening bid. That being the case, Declarer will be more inclined to make the normal Club play of running the Eight on the first round, hoping for Q2 or AQ2 in the East hand (two chances) rather than A2 (only one chance). Nice deception, Mr. East!



#34 – A DUMMY REVERSAL

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| | ♠ AQJ ♥ 875 ♦ 7532 ♣ QJ8 | |
| ♠ 87 ♥ AJT9 ♦ AK86 ♣ T92 | North West East Declarer | ♠ 642 ♥ K6 ♦ QJT94 ♣ 643 |
| | ♠ KT953 ♥ Q432 ♦ ♣ AK75 | |

None Vulnerable

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|----------|
| 1♠ | Dbl | Rdbl | 2♦ |
| Pass | Pass | 2♣ | 3♦ |
| 3♠ | Pass | 4♣ | All Pass |

N-S stumble into 4♣ and West leads ♦A. Declarer can count 5 Spade tricks and 4 Clubs. That's 9, where's the 10th? A ruff in the "short hand" is a common ploy for an extra trick, but that won't work here, Dummy has no short side-suits. Any ideas?

Does ruffing the opening Diamond lead generate a 10th trick? No, that is a ruff in the long hand, that still leaves us with only five trump tricks. But suppose that Declarer ruffs *three* Diamonds. Now he gets six trump tricks via

Dummy's three high trumps plus three ruffs by Declarer (the long hand). In effect, Dummy becomes the master hand, the hand which will be used to draw the enemy trumps after Declarer has got his ruffs.

Therefore, the sequence of plays is: ruff the Diamond lead, cross to the ♠Q, ruff another Diamond, cross to the ♠J, ruff a third Diamond, cross to the ♣Q, draw the remaining enemy trump. This line works whenever trumps are 3-2.

The thing to remember here is that Declarer needs *three* ruffs for the Dummy Reversal to produce an extra trick. It's that third ruff which reduces Declarer's trumps to a shorter length than Dummy's. Actually, it would even be possible for Declarer to get a fourth ruff, but there are insufficient entries to take advantage of this. So, 10 tricks it is.



#35 – MORTON'S FORK

We continue our look at some of bridge's exotic coups, and this week it is the Morton's Fork, a play which offers an opponent a choice of evils. Here, the Fork allows Declarer to bring home the 6♥ contract.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| | ♠ Q7 ♥ 73 ♦ AK642 ♣ K743 | |
| ♠ A865 ♥ 654 ♦ Q98 ♣ QT5 | North West East Declarer | ♠ JT432 ♥ J8 ♦ JT73 ♣ 86 |
| | ♠ K9 ♥ AKQT92 ♦ 5 ♣ AJ92 | |

West leads a trump. As Declarer, what is your plan? Of course, if the Club finesse works then 12 tricks will be easy. Alternatively, it would be just grand if Dummy's long Diamond could be set up with a couple of ruffs, then the Club finesse would not be necessary. Alas, there are not enough Dummy entries for that. Or maybe there are! Yes, here is your chance to skewer the defense on a Morton's Fork, offering two losing options.

After drawing trumps, you cross to the ♦A and ruff a Diamond. Now you lead the ♠K and West will be impaled on one of these prongs:

First Prong: If West wins the ♠K with his Ace he manages to score his Spade, but not without cost. Now Dummy has an extra entry (in Spades) and you have the timing to ruff out the Diamonds. You no longer need the Club finesse, you have your 12 tricks via a Spade, 6 Hearts, 3 Diamonds and 2 Clubs.

Second Prong: If West ducks the ♠K then you cross to the ♣K, cash Dummy's ♦K (pitching your remaining Spade), give up a Club, and romp home with 12 tricks. In this variation the defense never scores a Spade trick.

This hand required perfect timing! It was necessary to cash just one high Diamond and then ruff a Diamond before playing on Spades. If you had neglected to do that then you had no chance of getting the long Diamond established. And it would have been fatal to cash *both* Diamonds before playing on Spades, that would have rendered the fork's second prong inoperable. A very pretty deal!



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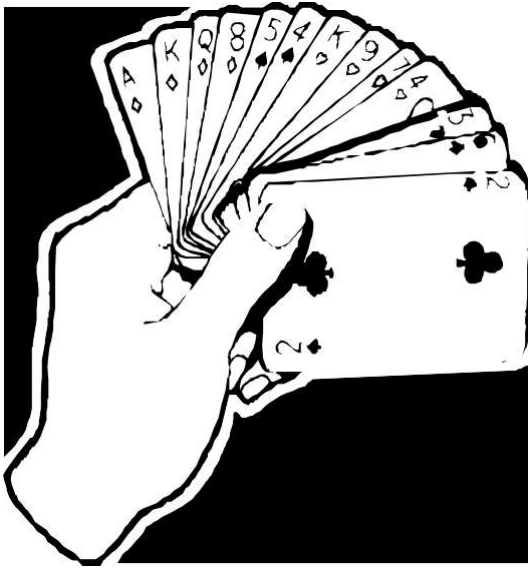
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Please see schedules on page 1



**AMERICAN CONTRACT
BRIDGE LEAGUE**

— DEALING INFINITE POSSIBILITIES —