

TABLE TALK

A publication of the Vermont Bridge Association
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Dave Marshall has directed most of Vermont's Sectional Tournaments

Donna Marshall is one of New England's top players

I was born in 1937, the son of an impoverished English nobleman and the American heiress to a tallow candle empire. Tragically, each of the families despised the other so I was dispatched to live with a family in the greater Boston area. I have resided in Boston suburbs almost all of my life, and graduated from Tufts University in 1959. After receiving a BSME degree from Tufts, I worked for Western Electric for several years and then for Epsilon Data Management until 1990.

In the early 1960s I met my wife Donna and we began to play bridge together. We married in 1966 and have lived in Reading, Mass. for the past 40 years. We have raised a son, Alan, and a daughter, Laura, both of whom managed to survive our parenting and are now themselves trying to figure out how to raise our four grandchildren.

Within two months of entering college, someone showed me this whist-like game which I took to like a duck to orange sauce. I have been playing the game for over 50 years now and I am confident that I will soon be able to play passably well.

I have been directing at club games since 1970, and in 1986 decided to try my hand at tournament directing. I did my first paid tournament in December of that year and started working more and more until I became a full-time TD in 1994. In the following 10 years, I worked at tournaments all over the northeast as well as almost every NABC during those years. I have been running the sectionals in Vermont since about 1991 from Lake Morey to Stratton Mtn. to Killington. I've run so many tournaments in Vermont that I feel that some people think I live at the Cortina Inn.

For the past 18 years Donna and I have been doing a lot of traveling. We do a lot of teaching and directing aboard cruise ships and have planned our vacations around bridge tournaments in foreign countries. We have played in clubs and tournaments in almost every country in Europe as well as many in South America and Asia. It's a lot of fun to play in foreign countries and see how the game is organized in other locales. We've made many friends with whom we have kept in contact.

I have always been a sports fan, and, before I started directing, I spent 25 years officiating football games at Eastern Mass high school and New England colleges. In addition, I refereed high school soccer and college rugby for several years which might explain why I would be silly enough to direct bridge tournaments.

Editorial Comment: You can see Dave's quick wit in his writing. His sense of humor has contributed a lot to the enjoyment of our tournaments. Dave once showed up on Friday afternoon dressed in a referee's uniform. He was ready to throw his penalty flag for rules violations. I wonder what a five yard penalty means at the bridge table. My favorite Marshalism, "I know that some of you are too hot and some of you are too cold. Would you please change places?"

Vermont State Day at Boston Nationals

The Vermont State day at the Boston Nationals will be Saturday, November 29. This is the Saturday after Thanksgiving and not the most convenient of times. We need volunteers to sit at tables and represent Vermont. We also need club info for handouts and gift items for about 50 raffle packs to be awarded to randomly selected players. If you can help, please call or email VBA President Phil Sharpsteen (802-899-2080 or hickoryvt@yahoo.com). You may also email your Table Talk editor (frhac@charter.net)

VBA MEMBERSHIP TRENDS

By Dave Shaw

I have been informally following our membership for the last 20 years and I want to report to you that we're doing fine. Vermonters' memberships in the ACBL at the end of May were 443 compared to 423 at the end of May last year. The peak each year seems to occur at the end of June and was 434 on 6/30/2007. The peak occurs then because all the "snowbirds" have returned by then. My memory is that we had about 300 members in the mid 1980's. So, to have 443 now is remarkably good considering that the ACBL has just begun to increase membership nationally after a long, long period of declining membership.

There is no question that our clubs and teachers have been largely responsible for building our membership. Bridge courses are offered on a regular basis and clubs have been adding games, especially daytime games, throughout Vermont. Two examples of this are in Manchester where there are now only daytime games and in Burlington where daytime games are offered Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

So, congratulations to us for our Vermont bridge community success!

NOVICE GAMES AT SECTIONAL TOURNAMENTS

By Dave Shaw

At each of our 2008 sectionals (April and May), we have held novice pair events. This is good news as it shows an increasing interest on the part of our newer players. Of the 443 Vermont ACBL members, 223 are eligible to play in 49er games, 274 for 99er games and 319 for 199er games. The greater the number of newer players coming to sectionals, the greater the directors' flexibility to offer stratified games at appropriate strats (0-5, 5 - 20, 20 – 50, etc.).

Club managers and other bridge teachers are encouraged to suggest newcomers come to sectionals. Please see the ad flyer for the July tournament in this issue of Table Talk.

Sites of Future Sectional Tournaments

By Dave Shaw

We learned in early April that Cortina Inn and Resort had been closed by the State of Vermont's Health Department. This news set in motion a flurry of activity. We had a tournament scheduled at Cortina for May 16th through the 18th. As there was no known date for the reopening of Cortina, the VBA Board decided to find an alternate site for the May tournament. We did find several sites that were available. As April passed, the meeting planning person at Cortina assured me that Cortina would reopen on May 1st – May 9th at the latest. Cortina did reopen on May 16th, the first day of our event. At the regularly scheduled VBA Board meeting held that weekend, we decided to follow up on many of the resort locations that expressed an interest in hosting the May tournament as well as future tournaments.

A Request For Proposal is being prepared and will be mailed to a dozen or so resorts around the state. We hope the results of the RFP can be presented at the VBA Board meeting to be held at the Summer Tournament in July at Cortina. Many of you will remember tournaments held at Lake Morey Inn and Resort, The Inn at the Six Mountains, Smugglers' Notch Resort, Holiday Inn - Rutland and Hampton Inn – Colchester. Other sites under consideration include the Killington Grande Hotel, Middlebury Inn, Doubletree Hotel – South Burlington, Champlain Exposition and others.

The Vermont Bridge Association has sponsored its sectional tournaments at resorts for many decades in an effort to provide a festive and “vacation like” atmosphere for our Vermont members as well as players from nearby states. Please come to Cortina in July - see schedule elsewhere in this issue of Table Talk.

VERMONT WINTER SECTIONAL RESULTS
South Burlington, VT
April 4-6, 2008

Friday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
4.00	1			Lynn Carew – Patricia Nestork	68.98
3.00	2			J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	63.43
2.41	3	1		Polly Schoning – Rhoda Chickering	60.42
1.69	4			Philip Sharpsteen – Wayne Hersey	59.72
1.27	5			Pierce Smith – June Dorion	59.49
1.81	6	2		Edward Schirmer – Frank Reed	56.71
1.73		3	1	Richard Gazley – Martha Gazley	54.40
1.02		4		Constance Beliveau – Jean-Guy Beliveau	51.85
1.30		5	2	John Newton – Sally Newton	49.07
0.97			3	Ronald Silverman – June Silverman	48.84
0.73			4	Alden Edwards – Jennifer Edwards	48.15

Friday Afternoon 99er Pairs

MP				Names	PCT
0.97	1/2			Lynn Beebe – Linda Seright	65.00
0.97	1/2			Kay Fay – Barbara Romanoff	65.00

Friday Evening Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
4.33	1			Phil Sharpsteen – Paul Reardon	61.40
3.25	2			Gerald DiVincenzo – Wayne Hersey	59.07
2.54	3	1		Polly Schoning – Rhoda Chickering	57.87
1.83	4			J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	56.04
1.91	5	2	1	Layton Davis – William Wade	55.83
1.43	6	3	2	Alden Edwards – Jennifer Edwards	53.87
1.07		4	3	Sheila Long – Karen Kristiansen	53.00
0.80		5	4	Ronald Silverman – June Silverman	51.39
0.58			5	John Newton – Sally Newton	51.22

Friday Evening 99er Pairs

MP	A	B	Names	PCT
1.19	1		Carolyn Tassej – Ann Moore	61.90
0.97	2	1	Nancy Furlong – Michael Furlong	59.52
0.74	3	2	Margo Bergeron – Linda Seright	57.94

Saturday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
5.00	1			Michael Rogers – Babette Rogers.	66.25
3.75	2			Jackie Kimel – Dave Shaw	63.20
2.81	3			Gerald DiVincenzo – Wayne Hersey	62.54
2.11	4			Donald Campbell – June Dorion	61.18
3.08	5	1	1	Alden Edwards – Jennifer Edwards	60.67
2.31	6	2	2	Luisa Chernyshov – Frances Wager	59.22
1.73		3	3	Thomas Cronin – Lorraine Streeter	58.69
1.30		4		Kotze Toshev – Gary Feingold	57.96
0.97		5	4	Sheila Barton – Nancy Madden	50.58
0.73		6		Pat Hoffmann – William Schiring	50.56
0.74			5	Ronald Silverman – June Silverman	50.53

Saturday Afternoon 99er Pairs

MP	A	B	Names	PCT
1.04	1/2	1/2	Barbara Romanoff – Marc Monheimer	55.95
1.04	1/2	1/2	Nancy Furlong – Michael Furlong	55.95
0.67	3		Margo Bergeron – Lynn Beebe	52.38

Saturday Evening Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
3.83	1			June Dorion – Donald Campbell	66.06
2.87	2	1	1	John Newton – Sally Newton	61.39
2.15	3			Stanley Rosenthal – Edsel Hughes	60.00
1.62	4			Gerald DiVincenzo – John Kimel	57.97
2.01	5	2	2	Jacqueline Walker – Carl Payne Jr	56.67
0.91	6			Wayne Hersey – Philip Sharpsteen	55.10
1.51		3		Jeannie Clermont – Polly Schoning	54.66
1.13		4		Rose Gove – Edward Gove	53.80
0.99		5		Thomas Osmer – Bryant Jones	50.83
1.04		6	3	Helen Lewis – Julianna McAllister	50.79
0.78			4	Zander Ponzo – Kay Fay	50.30
0.58			5	Alden Edwards – Jennifer Edwards	49.36

Sunday Swiss Teams

MP	A	B	C	Names	SCORE
6.00	1	1		Constance Beliveau – Jean-Guy Beliveau Jennifer Edwards – Alden Edwards	115
4.50	2			Penny Lane – J Peter Tripp Jackie Kimel – David Shaw	114
3.38	3			Pierce Smith – Donald Campbell June Dorion - Robert Smith	102
2.53	4			Wayne Hersey – Lynn Carew Paul Reardon – Philip Sharpsteen	95
3.17	5	2	1	Jacqueline Walker – Carl Payne Jr Thomas Cronin – Lorraine Streeter	88
2.37		3		Edward Schirmer – Bryant Jones Frank Reed – Pat Hoffmann	84
1.83		4	2	Gordon Johnson – Richard Clark Ann Moore – Caroline Tassey	83

Table Talk Distribution

It should come as no surprise that the cost of distributing Table Talk is continually rising. The VBA could realize significant savings by distributing TT via email. We already have a short list of members who are receiving their Table Talk this way. There is one advantage, for sure: The picture of the featured personality is in color, instead of in black and white as it ends up in the paper copy.

Would you like to receive your TT issue via email. Table Talk is a Word document, so you will need to be able to open a Word document. We offer the following options

1. Continue to receive TT via regular hard copy
2. Receive TT via email
3. Receive both distributions (While this is least desirable, we are willing to do this for a while to help members become acclimated to email distribution.)
4. If you would like to see whether TT via email can work for you, we are willing to send you this issue via email.

If you would like to try TT via email, send your email address to Frank Hacker at frhac@charter.net. Please indicate which of options 2,3, or 4 you would like.

By the way, my email address is always on the first page masthead. You are always welcome to communicate on any bridge subject.

Sequential End Plays

By Phil Sharpsteen

I held a hand at this year's Gatlinburg regional, where I was able to make a contract with 2 overtricks through a sequence of end plays. One executes an end play by forcing an opponent to win a trick at a time when he is unable to lead without surrendering a trick. To execute an end play one needs to figure out the locations of the key missing high cards and to know which defender to put on lead. As a defender, one needs to be alert to end play possibilities and look for ways to avoid being forced to lead when one has no safe cards to lead.

		S	KQ1074		
		H	J97		
		D	K102		
		C	K6		
S	2			S	AJ9
H	8543			H	K106
D	875			D	AJ93
C	J10974			C	Q53
		S	8653		
		H	AQ2		
		D	Q64		
		C	A82		

I held the North hand. East was dealer and opened 1NT. South and West passed. North bid 2S which became the final contract. From the bidding, declarer could tell that East had all the missing high cards, except for at most one Jack. Putting East on lead at advantageous moments would give declarer extra tricks, he could not get by force.

East led the 3 of clubs which declarer won in hand with the K. Declarer now set up heart end play by taking the, known to be winning, heart finesse. Declarer now continued with the club ace followed by trumping dummy's last club in his hand. This eliminated safe exit cards in clubs from the East hand. Declarer now led the K of spades and East erred by winning the A immediately (a holdup would have still permitted East to win 2 trump tricks and have resulted in one fewer end play). After winning the trump ace, East was end played. (See position on next page)

		S Q107	
		H J9	
		D K102	
		C	
S			S J9
H 854			H K10
D 875			D AJ93
C J10			C
		S 865	
		H A2	
		D Q64	
		C	

He could not return any suit without presenting declarer with a trick. He ultimately led a heart which declarer rode around to his Jack.

Declarer now cashed the Q of spades, led a heart to the A, and followed this with a diamond to the king. This second end play put East on lead again. (see below)

		S 107	
		H	
		D 102	
		C	
S			S J
H 8			H
D 87			D J93
C J			C
		S 86	
		H	
		D Q6	
		C	

East cashed his J of spades, but then had to lead a diamond surrendering a trick to the 10 of diamonds. With all of his assets, East was able to win only 2 spade tricks and 1 diamond trick.

The Worst of Both Worlds

By Frank Hacker

Sometimes I feel trapped in my own tortured bridge universe. I encounter many hands where I am not smart to make the right play, but do realize, after the fact, that I have made the wrong play. I know I would be happier if I could make the right play. I also believe I would be happier if I were blissfully unaware of my error.

In the semifinals of a bracket 1 KO, we were, as usual, playing against a team with an international star and umptamajillion master points. I looked over to my seat at the other table and saw a New York City pro with about 12,000 points.

The auction on the following hand was very simple (1N//3N). The opening lead was the 5 of hearts. The opponents led 4th best and the opening lead was clearly from either a 4 or 5 card suit.

Here is the entire hand, although it would be better if you didn't look at the opponent's hand while you're developing your line of play.

		S	A62		
		H	62		
		D	AJ10		
		C	97643		
S	85			S	QJ73
H	AJ754			H	108
D	876			D	95432
C	K85			C	A2
		S	K1094		
		H	KQ93		
		D	KQ		
		C	QJ10		

Righty played the 10 of hearts at trick 1. I won with the Q. I led the Q of clubs to trick 2. Right hand opponent won the club ace and led his last heart. I ducked. Left hand opponent won the J of hearts, cashed the A and gave me my second heart trick. I had to lead another club. Left hand opponent won her club king and cashed her last heart for the setting trick. This result was repeated at the other table, so no IMPs changed hands. Let's see if you can identify declarer's mistakes. The solution is below.

Solution: The reflex action is to win the first trick before pausing for thought. Too late!! As the cards lie, declarer can make the contract, by ducking the first trick. Righty can continue a heart, but declarer can play one of his honors. Now, righty is out of hearts and lefty does not have the entries needed to establish hearts and to cash the long heart to set the contract.. Also, one might argue that declarer should have gone to dummy with a

diamond (not a spade as that may permit the opponents to set up an additional winner and take the setting trick in spades) to lead a club from dummy. Righty should hop right up with the ace to lead a heart before partner's entry is knocked out. Sometimes players make mistakes, but the consensus seems to be that this type of error was not that likely at this level of play. In any event, I didn't lead a diamond, because I was worried about snarling up entries. I now believe this entry problem is an illusion.

Interesting Question: Is it really the correct play to duck the first heart? We can see that it works on this hand. Suppose, however, that hearts were 4-3. Suppose that the 4 of hearts and the 4 of diamonds traded hands.

		S	A62		
		H	62		
		D	AJ10		
		C	97643		
S	85			S	QJ73
H	AJ75			H	1084
D	8764			D	9532
C	K85			C	A2
		S	K1094		
		H	KQ93		
		D	KQ		
		C	QJ10		

Now a duck would be a mistake. Righty would lead a second heart, forcing you to play one of your honors. Left hand opponent would duck. When right hand opponent wins his club ace, he will lead his third heart and partner would win both the A and J of hearts. I'm sure partner and your teammates would congratulate you for finding a creative way to go down. Clearly finding the correct play depends on being able to divine the distribution of hearts.

VERMONT SPRING SECTIONAL RESULTS

Killington, VT May 16-18, 2008

Friday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
4.33	1			Pierce Smith – Stewart Mackeigan	63.94
3.25	2			Fred Donald Jr. – Judith Donald	63.62
2.44	3			Patricia Nestork – Lynn Carew	63.14
1.83	4			Wayne Hersey – Bryant Jones	60.42
1.52	5			Donna Marshall – Jeanne McKenzie	58.97
2.54	6	1	1	John Newton – Sally Newton	58.65

1.91	2			Judie Muggia – Reid Fleming	58.49
1.43	3			John Riopelle – John O’Brien	58.01
1.07	4			Rich Stevens – Albert Muggia	56.09
1.30	5	2		Karen Haines – Jane Grewcock	54.01
0.97		3		Lynn Beebe – Linda Seright	49.52
0.73		4		Marilyn Hart – Kathy Needham	47.28

Friday Evening Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
4.67	1			Betty Bloom – Steve Bloom	61.38
3.50	2			Pierce Smith – Stewart Mackeigan	60.42
2.63	3			Gary Spongberg – Lucy Spongberg	59.94
1.97	4			June Dorion – Irene Vignoe	57.37
1.48	5			J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	55.29
2.81	6	1	1	Jane Grewcock – Jennifer Feltes	53.53
2.11		2	2	Jennifer Armsrong – James Morrison	52.88
1.39		3/4		Paul Reardon – Linda Bouyea	52.40
1.39		3/4	3	Judith Ward – Linda Baker	52.40
0.99		5		Rich Stevens – Albert Muggia	51.44
0.78		6	4	Claire Gardner – Elaine Day	51.28
0.58			5	Sally Newton – John Newton	50.96

Saturday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
6.00	1			Betty Bloom – Steve Bloom	65.51
4.50	2			Diane Burger – Robert Donald	62.96
3.38	3			Gerald DiVincenzo – Michael Farrell	61.57
2.53	4			J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	60.19
3.08	5	1	1	John Newton – Sally Newton	59.95
1.42	6			Judy Dubay – William Dubay	58.33
2.31		2		Annabelle Hills – Linda Tedeschi	57.87
1.73		3		Rich Stevens – Albert Muggia	56.71
1.30		4		Donald Campbell – C Kirk Osterland	56.02
0.97		5		Paul Reardon – Linda Bouyea	53.47
1.38		6	2	Karen Haines – Jennifer Feltes	53.24
1.04			3	Claire Gardner – Elaine Day	50.00
0.78			4	Judith Ward – Linda Baker	48.61
0.65			5/6	Julianna McAllister – Helen Lewis	48.15
0.65			5/6	Kathy Needham – Marilyn Hart	48.15

Saturday Afternoon 299er Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
1.41	1	1	1	Shirly Lappen – Ed Lappen	63.19
1.06	2	2	2	Lynn Beebe – Linda Seight	59.03
3.38	3	3		Ross Lieb-Lappen – Karl Eberth	50.00

Saturday Evening Flight B/C/D Pairs

MP	B	C	D	Names	PCT
3.35	1			Rich Stevens – Albert Muggia	68.27
2.51	2			Mary Tierney – Bonnie Clouser	66.04
2.06	3	1		Kathy Needham – Marilyn Hart	60.08
1.72	4	2	1	Judith Ward – Linda Baker	59.84
1.17	5	3		Claire Gardner – Elaine Day	59.79
1.29	6	4	2	Margaret Farriss – Stephen Spalding	58.32
0.97		5	3	John Newton – Sally Newton	54.35
0.73			4	Arthur Aiken – Scott Perry	53.64
0.54			5	Jane Grewcock – Jennifer Feltes	52.72

Saturday Evening Flight A Pairs

MP				Names	PCT
5.17		1		Frank Hacker – Phil Sharpsteen	60.37
3.88		2		Gerald DiVincenzo – Michael Farrell	57.78
2.91		3		Donna Marshall – Jeanne McKenzie	54.81
1.91		4/5		Pierce Smith – Stewart Mackeigan	52.59
1.91		4/5		Robert Donald – Diane Burger	52.59

Sunday Open Swiss Teams

MP	A	B	C	Names	SCORE
8.25	1			Michael Farrell – Kathleen Farrell Gerald DiVincenzo – Patricia DiVincenzo	113
5.42	2/3			Wayne Hersey – June Dorion Paul Reardon – Mary Tierney	104
5.42	2/3			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker Rudolph Polli – Fred Donald Jr	104
3.48	4			Andy Avery – Paul Cohen Mary Savko – Ellie Hanlon	102
2.75	5			Pierce Smith – Robert Donald Diane Burger – Stewart Mackeigan	97
2.36	6			Jeanne McKenzie – Rich Stevens Donna Marshall – Judia Muggia – Albert Muggia	96
1.95	7/8			Babette Rogers – Michael Rogers – William Dubay Judy Dubay – Steve Bloom – Betty Bloom	93
1.95	7/8			Maurice Emond – John Cole	

		Philip Ray – Joan Cook	93
4.62	1	Joseph Phillips – Lois Lyon	
		Berne Kouba – Evelyn Markowitz	82
3.47	2	Annabelle Hills – Linda Tedeschi	
		Robert Fogarty – R Muggia	81
2.60	3	Ruth Horner – Paul Pratt	
		Roger Crean – Craig Helm	80
1.95	4	Claire Gardner – Elaine Day	
		Mark Conner – Peter Valiante	78
1.43	5/6	Donald Campbell – John Conova	
		C Kirk Osterland – Kenneth Cestone	77
1.56	5/6	Stanley Rosenthal – James Chase	
		Gary Feingold – Kotze Toshev	77
2.60	1	Sandy Desilets – Rhoda Chickering	
		Ronald Silverman – June Silverman	72
1.95		Mark Adair – Vivienne Adair	
	2	John Newton – Sally Newton	61

DI-REC-TOR (please)

By Jim Thomas

ACBL Director Jim Thomas has provided us with an informative article on leads out of turn.

The opening lead out of turn is one of the most common director calls at tournaments and at clubs. This is completely preventable if you lead face down. It is possible to have a lead out of turn during the play of the hand as well.

The opening lead out of turn gives declarer the most options of any law violation. There are 5 distinct options that declarer has to consider. I am going to list the options as I would give them to you at the table.

Option #1. Declarer accepts the lead. Dummy is faced and play moves clockwise with the dummy playing last to the trick.

Option #2. Declarer accepts the lead. He faces his hand allowing partner to play the hand.

Option #3. Declarer rejects the lead. The correct hand leads with no restrictions. The card led out of turn is a major penalty card and must be played at first legal opportunity.

Option #4. Declarer rejects the lead. The correct hand leads, but is prohibited from leading the suit that was led out of turn. The prohibition remains for as long as that defender is on lead. The card led out of turn is returned to the player's hand, but its existence is unauthorized information for the defensive partner. It is authorized information for declarer.

Option #5. Declarer rejects the lead. The correct hand is requested to lead the suit that his partner has led. The card led out of turn is returned to the player's hand. This option needs 2 clarifications. One, if the defender does not have the suit requested, he is free to lead the card of his choice. This is more likely to occur later in the hand, but can happen at trick 1, if defender is void in the suit requested. The second clarification is that the demand is only valid for the first lead.

You may not consult your partner. Before you make your decision, you must consider the bidding, your bidding systems and the relative strength of both players. If the bidding indicates that one opponent has the majority of the outstanding points, you may find it advantageous to have that hand on lead. Or, if your bidding system ends with the big hand as dummy, a lead out of turn will allow you to table the weak hand. If your partner plays hands much better than you do, you can allow partner to be declarer.

If the lead out of turn occurs later in play, there are not so many options. You may accept the lead. If you do not accept the lead, then that card becomes a major penalty card and the correct hand is on lead. All the usual provisions concerning major penalty cards are in play.

If you have any questions, or if you have a law question that you want addressed, contact me at mftjet@aol.com or your friendly editor who will forward it to me.

Overtrick From The Past

By Phil Sharpsteen

Several years ago, Zeke Jabbour wrote in his Bridge Bulletin article about some of the tactics the late Barry Crane employed in his very successful match point play. One I found interesting and experimented with (much to our TT editor's dismay!) was how he would play a 10 card trump suit missing the king and 2 spot cards with no opposition bidding. I had almost no success with this so agreed to give it up and just finesse for the king in this situation. At our recent Cortina sectional in the Sunday Swiss, however, the situation again presented itself and I announced 'A chance to try Barry Crane's idea' as Frank rolled his eyes!

S	J865
H	A64
D	AKQ
C	943

S	AQ10943
H	93
D	872
C	A7

You can see that the 4S contract is pretty much ironclad (5 spade tricks, 3 diamond tricks and 2 aces) whether or not you find the trump king. So I felt it safe to try Barry's method to 'find the king'. I won the heart K lead in dummy and called for a low trump. RHO followed with the 2 – the lowest missing spot card. I went up with the Ace as Barry would have done and dropped the singleton king offside. Barry's percentage theory was if RHO plays the highest missing spot card then LHO has the lowest and the king is not singleton and you should finesse.

Footnotes:

Frank told our opponents 'you have no idea how much I wanted this not to work!' I did win 1 imp but it made no VP difference in the match!
Had the opponents been familiar with what I was about to do, RHO could have false carded with the 7!

Editorial Comment: Newer players may not recognize the name Barry Crane. He was the most successful match point player of all time. By the time of his death (unsolved murder) in mid 1980s, he had accumulated over 35,000 master points way ahead of his closest pursuer. Barry Crane was not just a professional bridge player. He was also the producer of the TV shows Mannix and Mission Impossible. The annual top 500 master point race is named in his memory.

Vermonters On The Way Up

Congratulations to the following VBA members who have achieved new ranks in the master point hierarchy. Well done!!

Junior Master:

Susan Benson	Kim Likakis	Martha St. Onge
Charles Brewster	Marjorie Maas	Steven Sinding
Mary Falk	George Phillips	Mary Sullivan
Monica Knorr	Eleanor Ranzal	Joan Turnbull

Club Master:

Arlyne Berke	Virginia Freeman	Allan Snow
Jane Childs	Katherine Hoopes	Michael Spinelli
Hilda Conn	Ross Lieb-Lappen	Stephanie Stringos
Barbara Cross	Marc Monheimer	Sylvia Stringos

Sectional Master:

Penelope Daly
Ann Moore

Linda Nelson
Frank Reed

Deborah Wight

Regional Master:

Richard Clark

Life Master

James Chase

Bronze Life Master:

Judy Frank

Silver Life Master:

David Miller

Nil Desperandum

By Frank Hacker

“Nil Desperandum” said the Roman poet Horace. Never despair. Sometimes the most amazing things happen if you just soldier on. A couple of months ago, I held this wonderful hand S void H 7532 D 1098653 C 1064.

Partner opened 2C, strong artificial and forcing. I responded 2D negative and partner continued with 2S. That was just peachy. I ordinarily don't like to bid 2NT as the weak hand over partner's strong 2 bid, but I wanted to convey the fact that I had a truly awful hand and 2N was the most discouraging bid I could muster. I tried that instead of bidding my 6 card diamond suit. I hoped that we wouldn't wind up in NT. Sure enough, partner raised to 3NT and there I was, declarer in 3NT with a 0 count and a void in partner's suit. The opening lead was the 3 of clubs. Here is the whole hand

		S	AKJ92		
		H	AQ4		
		D	AK		
		C	KJ5		
S	Q3			S	1087654
H	K86			H	J109
D	Q74			D	J2
C	A9732			C	Q8
		S	Void		
		H	7532		
		D	1098653		
		C	1064		

I had my first choice to make at trick 1. Should I call a low club from dummy or the jack in the hope that I could later force an entry to my hand with the club 10. The jack has some down side if righty wins the ace and returns a club. My second club stopper goes away, because I squandered the jack. Also, even with the queen on the right and the ace on the left, the opponents are not compelled to grant me a club entry. I also didn't know whether clubs were 4-3 or 5-2. For better or worse, I called low and the opponents took the first 2 club tricks and continued with a third club sticking me in dummy. Right hand opponent threw his sixth spade.

The rules require that you play all 13 cards before the torture ends, so I tried the ace and king of spades. The queen dropped and all of a sudden I had an idea. I cashed the ace and king of diamonds and continued with a low spade. On this third spade left hand opponent made a mistake and pitched one of his 3 hearts. Do you see why this was a mistake?

Righty was now in big trouble. He should have just given up he spade suit, but he erred by exiting with the jack of hearts which picked up his partner's king. If lefty had saved all of his hearts, he could now duck, help his partner avoid the end play and have the king of hearts as a potential entry to his clubs. After taking two heart tricks, I exited with dummy's last heart. Righty won the 10 and, having nothing left but spades, was forced to concede the last 2 tricks to the jack and 9 of spades. In the end I wound up with 4 spade tricks 2 heart tricks, 2 diamond tricks and 1 club trick. Life is good.

Vermont On The Tournament Trail

Many Vermonters have done well (10 points or more) recently at the Detroit Nationals and at a number of regionals.

Here is a list of recent Vermont successes

<u>Detroit Nationals:</u>	James Gordon	91.93	Courtney Nelson	26.66
	Sandra Hammer	26.66	Andy Avery	26.24

<u>Newton Regional:</u>	Sandra Hammer	18.10	E. Zelkin	16.57
	Courtney Nelson	16.91	Michael Zelkin	16.57
<u>Rye Brook:</u>	Jay Friedenson	17.27		
<u>Orlando:</u>	Don Sondergeld	35.93	Ellie Hanlon	31.11
	Mary Savko	31.11		
<u>Bermuda:</u>	Courtney Nelson	16.32	C Kirk Osterland	13.15
<u>Cromwell:</u>	Norma Jakominich	28.83	J Peter Tripp	10.71
	Penny Lane	10.71	Wayne Hersey	10.66
<u>Sarasota:</u>	Ellie Hanlon	49.37	Frank Hacker	38.72
	Mary Savko	46.80		
<u>Gatlinburg:</u>	Don Sondergeld	37.01	Patricia DiVincenzo	27.66
	Pat Nestork	34.52	Michael Farrell	27.66
	Mary Tierney	34.52	Penny Lane	19.15
	Lynn Carew	34.52	J Peter Tripp	19.15
	Bonnie Clouser	34.52	Phil Sharpsteen	17.39
	Kathy Farrell	30.42	Frank Hacker	17.39
	Jerry DiVincenzo	30.42	Dave Shaw	12.74
	Wayne Hersey	30.07		
<u>Fort Lauderdale:</u>	Mary Savko	54.99	Judy Frank	15.03
	Ellie Hanlon	54.99		
<u>Saratoga:</u>	Ellie Hanlon	41.58	Phil Sharpsteen	16.13
	Mary Savko	41.58	C Kirk Osterland	15.31
	Frank Hacker	36.12	Carlos Galvan	14.96
	Don Sondergeld	25.38	Bertrand Nadeau	14.96
	Wayne Hersey	20.15	Pierce Smith	14.47
	June Dorion	18.70	Jim Thomas	10.78

Tiernan Trophy Race

Every year the Vermont Bridge Association awards the Tiernan trophy to the VBA member who accumulates the most master points in the 4 Vermont sectional tournaments. After two tournaments we are at the halfway point. The winners from the last 2 years are in the lead again. Kudos to Mike Farrell who is 6th on the list despite having participated in only one of the two tournaments. Here are the top 10. Apologies to anyone I inadvertently omitted.

1.	Jerry DiVincenzo	23.66	6.	Mike Farrell	15.98
2.	Phil Sharpsteen	21.33	7.	Paul Reardon	15.22
3.	Wayne Hersey	18.61	8.	Penny Lane	15.17
4.	June Dorion	18.35	9.	Sally Newton	14.91
5.	Pierce Smith	17.51	9.	John Newton	14.91

Scott Aborn Trophy Race

Every year the Vermont Bridge Association awards the Scott Aborn trophy to the VBA member who starts the year as a non-life master and who accumulates the most master points in the 4 Vermont sectional tournaments. After two tournaments we are at the halfway point. The champions for the last 2 years are in the lead again. The top 10 are. Apologies to anyone I inadvertently omitted.

1.	Sally Newton	14.91	6.	Frank Reed	4.18
1.	John Newton	14.91	7.	Carolyn Tasse	3.02
3.	Rhoda Chickering	7.55	7.	Ann Moore	3.02
4.	Judy Ward	4.41	9.	C. Kirk Osterland	2.73
4.	Linda Baker	4.41	10.	Arthur Aiken	2.71

Memory Lane

By Frank Hacker

I have a magazine rack that holds several old issues of Table Talk. The January 1, 1997 issue was particularly interesting. Ruth and Ed Brass were the editors, as they were for several years. The featured personality was June Dorion. Wishing us Happy New Year were our officers Phil Sharpsteen, Jim Thomas, Betsy Clewley and Gerow Carlson. Phil was president then. He's president now. Seems that he has been president or immediate past president for as long as I can remember.

There was an article about the recently completed October sectional at the Cortina and the new table count record it had set -- 254 tables. There was no Friday afternoon session in those days, so the record was set in 5 sessions, not the 6 we have today. By contrast, our recently completed May 2008 Sectional had 129 tables. How times have changed!!!

January 1997 was before the Burlington Bridge Academy. The President's Cup was held at the Plaza Hotel in Montpelier. I recall that the President's Cup and annual meeting were frequently held in Montpelier during the 1980s and 1990s. There were 22 tables.

There was a note that Bill Becker of Rutland had recently celebrated his 84th birthday.

June Silverman was a new club master. Linda Bouyea and Paul Reardon were new sectional masters. Gerow Carlson and Jennifer Stern were new life masters.

The list of patrons included many people now departed: Aurel and Laura DeAlth; Raymond Colby; Sylvia Fraser; Celia Hacker; Lyman Hunt; Irving Stiefel; Gladys Parker; Hazel Willey.

Coming Attractions:

- June 18 -22 New England Summer Regional/Sturbridge Host Hotel/Sturbridge, MA
- July 11-13 Vermont Summer Sectional/Cortina Inn/Mendon, VT
- July 17-27 Summer Nationals/Las Vegas Hilton/Las Vegas, NV
- Aug 2 Marilyn Hacker memorial pairs/Burlington Bridge Academy/So Burlington,VT
- Aug 11-17 CAN-AM Regional/Hilton Montreal Airport/Montreal, QC, Canada
- Aug 27 – 1 New England Fiesta Regional/Radison Hotel/Nashua, NH
- Sep 27-28 Sectional/Grantham, NH
- Oct 13-19 District 3 Autumn Leaf Regional/Danbury Plaza Hotel and Conference Center/ Danbury,CT
- Oct 24-26 Vermont Fall Sectional/Cortina Inn/Mendon, VT
- Nov 20-30 Fall Nationals/Marriott Copley Place & Westin Copley Place/Boston, MA

VERMONT SUMMER SECTIONAL

Cortina Inn and Resort
Killington, Vermont

July 11 to 13, 2008

Sanction # S0807025

Schedule of events:

Friday July 11th

1:30PM Open Pairs, Stratified
Newcomer Pairs, Stratified
7:30PM Open Pairs, Stratified
Newcomer Pairs, Stratified

Saturday July 12th

1:00PM Open Pairs, Stratified
Newcomer Pairs, Stratified
7:00PM Open Pairs, Stratiflighted
A/X (separate event) Flight A= 0 to unlimited
Flight X = 0/3000 if entries permit
B = 750 to 1500
C = 300 to 750
D = 0 to 300

Sunday July 13th

10:30AM 1st session Open Swiss Teams, Stratified
0 to 300 Swiss Teams (1 session only)
3:00PM 2nd session Open Swiss Teams, Stratified

Open Stratifications: A above 1500, B 500 to 1500, C 0 to 500

Newcomer Stratifications: A 100 to 300, B 50 to 100, C 0 to 50 (Strats may be adjusted)

Price per session: \$8 - \$1 additional for Non-ACBL members

Vermont State Law - No smoking in public buildings and or the playing area

Director (&MC): Dave Marshall

Partnerships and information: Phil Sharpsteen (802) 899-2080

Hospitality: The VBA is pleased to offer free refreshments after the Friday and Saturday evening sessions and at 10:00AM before the Swiss Teams begin on Sunday at 10:30.

Accommodations for the tournament at the Cortina Inn

:

	1 person	2 persons
Superior room	\$179	\$209
Queen deluxe	\$189	\$219
King deluxe	\$199	\$229

Package includes 2 nights stay with complimentary breakfast. Vermont rooms and meals tax is not included in above rates. Check-in time 3PM, checkout time 11AM.

Reservations: 1-800 451-6108 or 802-773-3331. email: cortinal@aol.com.

Fax: 802- 775-6948.

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