

TABLE TALK

A publication of the Vermont Bridge Association
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Hail to the Chief

Phil Sharpsteen is currently president of the Vermont Bridge Association and has been for several years. He is a manager and director at the Burlington Bridge Academy. He is indefatigable in his efforts to promote bridge. He has won the District 25 Larry Weiss award for service to bridge and excellence at the table. Michael Arnowitz, a previous Table Talk editor called him “universal nice guy Phil Sharpsteen.” Phil is a gold life master with about 3,800 master points. He is currently fourth on the Vermont list of leading master point holders. Phil is typically modest in describing his role in Keeping Track. He is president and chairman of the board. For the moment, it seems that both of his presidencies are lifetime appointments. Here is his statement.

Phil’s Statement

It is always a nice honor to be asked to be the featured personality for Table Talk. Of course, the bad news is that the nominee has to write the article! Mercifully for both writer and reader, the

space is limited! With this in mind, I have decided to write about three of my current interests. These also happen to be life-long interests which I am able to spend more time on since I've retired.

First, there's music. I play the bass in an orchestra and the piano and guitar at home for my own enjoyment. I enjoy live concerts and listening to records or VPR in the car. Music is pretty much my only listening media and the great outdoors is the visual. I enjoy quite a variety of music. A partial list of composers/musicians last names will illustrate: Palestrina, Morley, Bach, Schubert, Chopin, Joplin, Domino, Brubeck, Dylan, Prine and Fleck. I have attended First Night in Burlington for most of the possible years starting at 12 noon and going to the midnight fireworks with NO restaurant break! I can only thank my parents for forcing me to take piano lessons at an early age and the public school music program in Binghamton, NY.

Second, there is my love of the rural landscape, especially as embodied in the trees of New England. I am interested in efforts to restore both the American elm and Chestnut and am partial to all New England hardwoods, especially Shagbark Hickory and the oaks. My best friend, Sue Morse, complements this nicely as she favors the conifers and has an arboretum of 100 species from all over the world. With Sue and Frank Hacker, I am actively involved with Keeping Track, an educational non-profit 501C(3) that Sue founded in 1994. Please check out the website: keepingtrack.org to learn about the wonderful programs and how to send in your tax deductible support dollars! Sue, as a wildlife forester, is improving the habitat for wildlife at the defunct 65 acre farm where I live by releasing important mast trees such as apple, cherry, serviceberry and hop hornbeam. This thinning project of mostly red maple and ash provides all the firewood I need for the winter. Wildlife sightings and sign have included turkey, deer, bear, fisher, fox and moose. We were out working one winter day and came upon a young bull moose not more than 30 feet away. Sue was able to keep the animal at that distance for several minutes with her very authentic moose vocalizations!

And finally, there is bridge! I don't get to play as much at the club partly because of more directing and teaching and partly because I want to balance this interest with the two mentioned above. I really do enjoy playing this wonderful game especially at the 2 or 3 regionals and 4 Vermont sectionals each year with Frank and various team mates. I have been teaching at the CVU access program for a few years and am encouraging my students to give duplicate bridge at the club a try. About 3 tables of them have been coming to the club Wednesday afternoons to play selected hands from the morning duplicate and a few have already tried the Monday evening or Friday morning game. Bridge is certainly the best card game for interest, complexity and challenge. Each hand is a unique problem to solve in both bidding and play. I used to play more chess in college but I have found bridge to be much more enjoyable as both a challenge and as a social endeavor. Oh, and it allows me to participate in a 4th interest – fine dining! So in closing, to all my dear friends in bridge: *“LAISSEZ LES BON TEMPS ROULER”!*

President's Message

By Phil Sharpsteen

The VBA Board has decided to try to improve the B stratification attendance at our sectionals by enlarging the master point range requirements. The B flight will be greater than 750 and less than 2500 for the 4 open pair games (based on the highest point holder in the pair). For the Swiss Teams, the same B flight limits will apply but the AVERAGE master points of all team members will be used for stratification (not the highest point holder). The newcomer pairs will be a less

than 300 mp event with stratification as entries permit. The flyer for the July sectional in this Table Talk incorporates these changes. As always, the Board is interested in player input on the structure of sectional events.

VERMONT SUGAR TIME SECTIONAL RESULTS
South Burlington, VT
April 1-3, 2010

Thursday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
4.33	1			Bill Schiring – Nick Ecker Racz	67.36
3.25	2			Bryant Jones – Edward Schirmer	64.61
2.44	3			Kathy Farrell – Mike Farrell	62.66
1.83	4			Wayne Hersey – June Dorion	58.22
2.41	5	1		Francoise Beaudoin – Richard Thibodeau	57.24
1.81	6	2		Jay Friedenson – Alan Wertheimer	57.17
1.73		3	1	Robert Derrah – Shirley Derrah	53.71
1.30		4	2	Richard Clark – Michael Spinelli	50.35
0.97		5	3	John Newton – Sally Newton	49.20
0.87			4	Don Wallace – Bill Callnan	46.59

Thursday Afternoon 99er Pairs

MP				Names	PCT
1.11		1		Linda Aronsson – Lisa Logan	60.00
0.83		2		Maureen Labenski – Edward Labenski	57.00

Thursday Evening Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
3.83	1			Wayne Hersey – June Dorion	69.21
2.87	2			Jerry DiVincenzo – Mike Farrell	65.63
2.15	3			Phil Sharpsteen – Cliff Gordon	59.72
2.28	4	1	1	John Newton – Sally Newton	56.51
1.21	5			Stan Rosenthal – Kotze Toshev	56.25
0.96	6			J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	54.40
1.71		2		Jay Friedenson – Alan Wertheimer	51.62
1.28		3		Rose Gove – Edward Gove	51.39
1.22		4	2	Helen Lewis – Peggy Whipple	51.30
0.91		5	3	Michael Furlong – Nancy Furlong	50.69
0.68			4	Lee Corbett – Ross Lieb-Lappen	48.61

Friday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
4.33	1			Patricia DiVincenzo – Kathleen Farrell	66.25
3.25	2			Phil Sharpsteen – Cliff Gordon	64.41
2.44	3			Maryse Hambrick – Sarko Kassabian	64.39
1.83	4			J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	64.29
1.37	5			Bill Schiring – Nick Ecker Racz	63.32
2.68	6	1		Jay Friedenson – Alan Wertheimer	63.16
2.01		2	1	John Newton – Sally Newton	54.45
1.51		3	2	Linda Aronsson – Lisa Logan	52.98
1.13		4	3	Robert Derrah – Shirley Derrah	51.11
0.86		5		Mitch Kontoff – Karen Kristiansen	50.22
0.64		6		Rose Gove – Edward Gove	49.06
0.78			4	Gail Farrish – Dorothea Arnold	48.08
0.64			5	Kay Fay – Teri Carpenter	47.55

Friday Evening Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
4.17	1			Maryse Hambrick – Sarko Kassabian	66.03
3.13	2			Stan Rosenthal – Gary Feingold	64.10
2.35	3			Lynn Carew – Pat Nestork	61.86
1.78	4			Courtney Nelson – John Conova	61.38
1.32	5			Patricia DiVincenzo – Kathy Farrell	59.13
2.54	6	1	1	Lee Corbett – Ross Lieb-Lappen	58.33
1.91		2		Jay Friedenson – Alan Wertheimer	57.85
1.43		3	2	Robert Derrah – Shirley Derrah	54.97
1.07		4		Francoise Beaudoin – Richard Thibodeau	53.04
0.77		5/6		Mitch Kontoff – Karen Kristiansen	49.68
1.04		5/6	3	Sally Newton – John Newton	49.68
0.78			4	Michael Furlong – Nancy Furlong	48.08
0.58			5	Gail Farrish – Dorothea Arnold	42.47

Saturday Open Swiss Teams

MP	A	B	C	Names	SCORE
7.00	1			J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	115
				June Dorion – Wayne Hersey	
4.60	2/3			Maryse Hambrick – Sarko Kassabian	103
				Martial Chagnon – Diane Landry	
4.60	2/3	1	1	John Newton – Sally Newton	103
				Neil Raphael – Karen Kristiansen	
2.95	4			Phil Sharpsteen – Kay Fay	95
				Susan Penner – Teri Carpenter	
3.02	5/6	2		Paul Reardon – Alan Wertheimer	94
				Mary Tierney – Jay Friedenson	
2.17	5/6			Dave Shaw – Stan Rosenthal	

2.26	3	Kotze Toshev. – Gary Feingold	94
		Mark Adair – Vivienne Adair	
		Gerow Carlson – Rhoda Chickering	77
1.70	4	Claire Gardner – Denise Olson	
		Agnes Kurtz – Thomas Kurtz	75
1.83	2	Robert Derrah – Shirley Derrah	
		Gail Farrish – Dorothea Arnold	72

Club News

Starting June 14, the Marble Valley Bridge Club will hold a new Monday afternoon game at 1:00 PM in Engle Hall at Christ The King Church on South Main St. This game will be in addition to the regular Thursday night game. It will run until the end of August. The cost will be \$5.

The Marble Valley Bridge Club will sponsor a **Bill Becker Memorial unit game** on Thursday, August 5 at 6:45 PM at the Godnick Senior Center on Deer St. in Rutland. The cost will be \$7. If you are interested in playing that night, please call Linda Baker at 773-9412 or Judi Ward at 287-5756.

DIRECTOR (please)

By Jim Thomas

Hesitations

As a tournament director, I think that rulings involving hesitations (unauthorized information) cause the most confusion for the players. The reason is twofold:

1. In club games, the director is not often called and players do not become familiar with the rulings.
2. In club games, the director does not have a second or third director with whom to discuss the situation.

Also, if the director is playing, he or she cannot make a ruling on a board before playing it. In tournament bridge directing, a ruling is seldom (or never) made by one director without discussion with other directors. There can be different views of the same action. In tournaments a hand may even be discussed with players who are playing in a different event.

ACBL law 16 defines unauthorized information as “extraneous information that may suggest a call or play, as by means of a remark, a question, a reply to a question, or by unmistakable hesitation, unwonted speed, special emphasis, tone, gesture, movement, mannerism or the like.” Failure to alert and misexplanation may lead to unauthorized information.

The law goes on to say, “the partner may not choose from among logical alternative actions one that could demonstrably have been suggested over another by the extraneous information.”

Hesitations by definition are unauthorized information. The length of the hesitation does not matter. Another term for hesitation is break in tempo (or BIT). BIT is often the term used in the ACBL Bulletin. BIT seems to be seen by the players as less contentious than the term hesitation, but in terms of the law, it is the same thing.

In my explanation of the consequences of this law, I like to say that the hesitation handcuffs your partner. Some players think that partner must pass after the hesitation, but this is NOT true. Partner may not make a borderline bid, as that bid could be considered to have been suggested by the hesitation.

Most of the time, if the hesitator makes an ongoing bid after the hesitation, there will be no adverse effect on the bidding. However, doubling or passing after hesitating may severely limit partner's options. Pulling the double or going on to game on borderline hands will almost always be reversed by the directors. (Even if the action would have been taken by the majority of players, it may not be allowed, as the standard is substantial majority.) "The director shall assign an adjusted score if he considers that an infraction of the law has resulted in damage."

Another question is when to call the director. The law states, "When a player considers that an opponent has made such information available and that damage could well result, he may, unless the regulations of the sponsoring organization prohibit, immediately announce that he reserves the right to summon the director later (the opponents should summon the director immediately if they dispute the fact that unauthorized information may have been conveyed)." This means that if the opponents agree there was a hesitation, you do not have to call the director until after the hand is played. If they do not agree, call immediately.

The skill level of the players is also considered. Novice players are not held to the same standard as expert players. However, all players should strive to bid in tempo on all hands. Remember that rapid bidding or passing can also be considered unauthorized information. That is the reason you should wait 10 seconds after the opponents have skipped a level of the bidding, whether or not they have used the stop card. It is unethical to bid immediately, especially if they do use the stop card.

There is one other point about using the stop card. You must always use it or never use it. Intermittent use can result in unauthorized information.

I hope this clears up some of the confusion. If you have questions, you may email me at mftjet@aol.com

The Nomination Committee Needs You

By Dave Shaw

Each year at this time, our Unit president appoints at least three Vermont Bridge Association (VBA) members to a Nomination Committee. This group is charged with presenting a list of officers for the upcoming year (in this case – 2011) to the VBA's Annual Meeting in October. The officer positions are President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Nomination Committee appointed this year is Pat Nestork (Burlington), John Conova (Manchester) and Karen Kristiansen (West Burke).

If you would like to be considered for one of the officer positions, please contact one of these three as soon as possible. If you know of a VBA member whom you think would make a good officer of the VBA, please let the committee know that member's name.

Two of the current officers have been in officer positions for many, many years and are definitely "long of tooth"! Seriously, all organizations need new blood; new leaders with new ideas.

So, please give the idea of offering your services some thought.

Vermont On The Tournament Trail

Many Vermonters have done well (10 points or more) recently at the Reno Nationals and at a number of regionals. There have been many tournaments since the last issue. My apologies for any inadvertent omissions.

Here is a list of recent Vermont successes

<u>Reno Nationals:</u>	Courtney Nelson	42.51	Don Sondergeld	24.59
	James Gordon	15.14	Andy Avery	13.41
<u>Orlando:</u>	Allan Graves	146.78	Mary Savko	38.19
	Ellie Hanlon	38.19	Don Sondergeld	21.67
	Linda Bouyea	11.75	Peter Bouyea	11.75
<u>Cromwell:</u>	Penny Lane	26.32	Peter Tripp	26.32
	Wayne Hersey	19.77	June Dorion	19.77
	John Conova	15.32	Norma Jakominich	11.88
<u>Hilton Head:</u>	Allan Graves	130.79		
<u>Sarasota:</u>	Ellie Hanlon	40.34	Mary Savko	40.34
	Frank Hacker	40.34	Allan Graves	14.41
<u>Montreal:</u>	James Gordon	11.11		
<u>Gatlinburg:</u>	Phil Sharpsteen	61.48	Frank Hacker	61.48
	Wayne Hersey	60.13	Penny Lane	55.80
	Peter Tripp	53.37	Allan Graves	47.89
	Don Sondergeld	33.34		
<u>Fort Lauderdale:</u>	Allan Graves	85.41		

How Could I Have Known

By Frank Hacker

At least a few times every session, defenders have to make discards on the run of a long suit by declarer. Sometimes the issue is what card to save for the last trick. Even experts can have problems here and beginners save the wrong card more often than not. Lately, I have seen a

number of hands where I would assign the blame not to the person who actually saves the wrong card, but instead to the player's partner. Here is a hand to illustrate this point.

<u>West</u>		<u>North</u>		<u>East</u>	
S	85	S	Q	S	A94
H	K85	H	97632	H	J104
D	K96	D	J74	D	Q832
C	KQ854	C	A1076	C	J93
 <u>South</u>					
		S	KJ107632		
		H	AQ		
		D	A105		
		C	2		

South declared a spade contract. West led the king of clubs. Declarer won in dummy and took the losing heart finesse. West returned a trump. East took his ace and returned a diamond ducked to west's king. West returned the club queen. Declarer trumped and started running his winners. Both defenders decided to save hearts, so declarer won trick 13 with the 10 of diamonds.

The post mortems are usually painful. Since east actually saved the wrong card, west usually has lots of good advice.

“Didn't you see the bidding, South can't have another heart.”

“You should have known. I gave you count in whatever.”

“I pitched all of my something irrelevant.”

Then, my favorites.

“I was saving my whatchamacallit to lead to you.”

“I didn't want to help (or I wanted to fool) declarer.”

There is usually quite a bit of evidence as to declarer's last card. The best evidence, however, comes from west's discards. West should know that partner needs information in the red suits. West should also know that the 85 of hearts are worthless. Those two cards should be among the **first** cards out of west's hand. All signals and bidding clues notwithstanding, west has to take a large share of the blame for saving a useless heart.

A few years back, I found myself having to decide whether to save my good spade or my good heart for trick 13. I knew partner's last 4 cards to be either 4 small spades or 3 small spades and a small heart. Partner pitched 3 spades, so I decided declarer must have the last heart. It turned out partner had it. Partner blamed me. “I pitched all my spades,” he said. How infuriating!

Worldwide Bridge Competition

On Friday evening June 4, the Apollo Bridge Club of Montpelier participated in the first of 2 worldwide bridge competitions. Nineteen pairs participated locally, 4,721 worldwide. The winning percentage was 78.42, posted by a pair from Italy. On Saturday afternoon, the Burlington Bridge Academy participated in the second competition. There were 18 pairs locally and 4,835 pairs worldwide. The winning percentage was 74.62 , posted by a pair from Halifax, NS.

We list here the Vermont results. The numbers in parentheses represent each pair's worldwide rank. The worldwide rank is based on matchpointing across the entire international field. Sometimes the local rankings, based on local results only, are different from the international results. Congratulations to Lynn Carew and Pat Nestork who were second overall in Montpelier and first overall in South Burlington.

Montpelier Results

MP	A	B	Names		PCT.
3.33	1		J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	(119)	65.26
2.50	2		Lynn Carew – Pat Nestork	(347)	62.71
1.87	3		Stan Rosenthal –Gary Feingold	(483)	59.48
1.67	4		Rudolph Polli – Frank Hacker	(1,468)	55.21
2.00	5	1	Jenny Bell – Michael Bell	(1,558)	54.49
1.50	6	2	Guy Smythe – Al Ceppetelli	(1,620)	53.08
1.13		3	Vivienne Adair – Mark Adair	(2,229)	50.73

South Burlington Results

MP	A	B	C	Names		PCT.
3.17	1	1		Pet Nestork – Lynn Carew	(406)	67.13
2.38	2			Patricia DiVincenzo – Kathy Farrell	(869)	56.71
1.78	3			Rudolph Polli – Frank Hacker	(578)	56.48
1.17	4/5			Gerald DiVincenzo – Mike Farrell	(1,122)	55.79
1.17	4/5			Ellie Hanlon – Mary Savko	(1,475)	55.79
1.73		2	1	Katharine White – Janine Gauthier	(2,024)	54.63
1.13		3		Ruth Stokes –John Stokes	(2,638)	49.31
0.84		4		Pierce Smith – Jim Thomas	(2,690)	48.61
1.30			2	Lorraine Streeter – Tom Cronin	(2,907)	46.30

Black Point Charity Event at Southern Vermont Art Center

The Art of Bridge, a fundraiser for the Southern Vermont Art Center, will take place on Monday, July 26 at Yester House Gallery at the Southern Vermont Art Center in Manchester, Vermont.

Yester House, once the 28 room Georgian Revival mansion and centerpiece of the former Gertrude Divine Webster estate, was purchased as the permanent home for the Southern Vermont Artists, the forerunner of today's Southern Vermont Arts Center, in 1951. Placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1988, Yester House Gallery now houses the Southern Vermont Arts Center's administrative offices and its major annual and invitational exhibitions; the mansion's former entrance foyer, salons, bed chambers and sitting rooms now comprise ten beautiful galleries featuring for sale the art of more than 600 artists. The Yester House Gallery will be closed to the general public, but attending bridge players are welcome to browse through the entire gallery and purchase at a special 12% discount.

Last year's event was a huge success. Thirty-four tables of very enthusiastic bridge players filled the Yester House Gallery. This year's event is a sanctioned charity duplicate or Chicago rubber bridge tournament, directed by Robert H. Smith of Manchester & The Mountains Duplicated Bridge Club, and is rated with black points.

Entry Fee Levels: \$75 Friend \$150 Patron \$500 Sponsor

Registration starts at 8:45 a.m. The tournament starts at 9:30 a.m., followed by lunch. Proceeds will benefit the Southern Vermont Art Center.

Since bridge is a highly skilled art, duplicate players from far and away are invited to attend, demonstrate the art of bridge, and generously contribute to this very deserving cause.

Please call Robert H. Smith if you have any questions concerning bridge or call 362-1405 in reference to registration or art center information.

The Art of Bridge promises to be a great bridge and art day. Hope to see you at the table!

Robert H. Smith. Director
802-362-4224

Advantage Declarer!

By Phil Sharpsteen

Bridge defense is one of the most difficult aspects of the game since the players don't have the benefit as declarer does of seeing the total partnership assets before beginning play. The declarer can false card since there is no partner to also deceive, whereas the defenders must signal accurately to determine where the possible tricks exist in each deal. I have chosen a hand from a bracket 3 knockout match from the recent April regional in Gatlinburg that illustrates this defense difficulty in a very dramatic fashion. The hand was board 12 from a 24 board match that our team happened to be winning by the wide margin of 1 imp on the other 23 boards! We, or most certainly I, didn't know the closeness of the match as we all bid our hands to the max! West was the dealer with NS vul.

North

S KQxx
H 10xxx
D 10x
C Q9x

West

S xx
H J
D AJ8xx
C J10xxx

East

S x
H KQ9xxxx
D Q9x
C Axx

South

S AJ10xxx
H Ax
D Kxx
C Kx

Auction 1 (our table)

West	North	East	South
P	P	1H	1S
2D*	2S	3D	3S
4C	4S	P	P
5D	all pass		

Auction 2 (Teammate's Table)

West	North	East	South
P	P	2H	2S
P	3S	P	4S
all pass			

* negative free bid

Our partners bid to the vulnerable 4S game hoping to make and we bid to the non-vul 5D contract hoping for a profitable sacrifice. If this were the case, we would pick up almost 10 imps and win the match. A double dummy inspection of all 4 hands reveals a much less desirable result for our team! BOTH contracts should fail by one trick and we should lose the match! But, as I said, defense IS difficult and this match was later in the week after we all had played about 250 hands of bridge!

- The play in 5D:
- 1) King spades lead won
 - 2) Queen spades trumped by east
 - 3) Q, K and Ace of diamonds
 - 4) J hearts won by ACE (duck better!)
 - 5) spade trumped in east with club discard (club switch is required at this point but doesn't sitting back and waiting for the club trick look tempting and lower risk – especially in view of the bidding?!)
 - 6) Heart ruff back to hand
 - 7/8) pull trump with J and 8
 - 9) to good board with club Ace – making 5 diamonds!

The play in 4S: Basically the defense has 4 tricks that can't go away (heart, 2 diamonds and a club). West unfortunately ended up with the high J clubs as the potential setting trick in the middle of the hand (he doesn't know declarer has no more clubs). So when east played a diamond, west was so anxious to get the club play in that he played the ace of diamonds when the J of diamonds would have won – making 4 spades! So best defense would give us a 4 imp loss on the board and a 3 imp loss for the match. Instead we won 14 imps and won the match by 15 imps! I can certainly sympathize with our opponents. I have been there done that on defense many times!

PS=> can you guess Frank's 'favorite' bid on the 5D auction?

Frank speaking here: This board was an example of insane aggression. We have 18 high card points and an 8 card fit. This is just the time to take a phantom sacrifice! My favorite bid was Phil's 4 club bid. Phil explained later, that, since we open the bidding with 3 NT on hands with 6/5 or longer in the minors and 7-10 high card points, I should have been able to deduce the type of hand he actually held. Needless to say, none of this ever crossed my mind. There has been a joke circulating that somebody once gave Phil a bidding box with no pass cards and that it was several boards before he even noticed.

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:

Vicki Bruce	Deirdre Ellison	Arlene Fleming
Matthew Fleming	Claire Genser	John Hirst
Cathy Kimmel	Carla Klop	Francis Lacombe
Lisa Logan	Christina Long	Huguette McA'Nulty Black
Gail Meier	Kaspar Meier	Gilbert Nadeau
Muriel Steinberg	Cornelia Tuttle	Bob Wetzler

Club Master:

Linda Aronsson	Jenny Bell	Lucille Day
Mary Ann Kaplinsky	Bernard Long	Elizabeth Perrott
Kate Spencer		

Sectional Master:

Harold Leitenberg	Patricia Merrill	Shirley Perlman
Sylvia Stringos		

Regional Master:

Don Bly	Sally Brophy	Ping Gee
Ross Lieb-Lappen	Frank Reed	Kate Stewart

NABC Master:

Neil Raphel

Life Master:

John Conova

The ACBL Website I

By Dave Shaw

I am not the right person to prepare an article on this topic. My sons would laugh just knowing that I'm trying! But, the ACBL has built a very useful website for its members and I want to try and give you a broad brush of what's there. The first step is to type, in the address bar at the top of your screen, www.acbl.org. This opens the "home page" of the website where the words "LEARN" "PLAY" "JOIN" appear. If you want more detailed information on any topic on the home page, just click on the topic that interests you.

LEARN offers three sub groups: 1. "free lesson software" which you may download to your computer and learn how to play bridge (not that YOU need that!), 2. "play and improve" and 3. "find a teacher" which will help you find an ACBL Certified Teacher – we have thirty or more such Certified Teachers in Vermont.

PLAY also has three sub groups: 1. "find a club" – there are some 3,000 duplicate bridge clubs in the US so, if you're going on vacation, you can find a club near your destination, 2. "play online" tells you how to access the ACBL's on line games which, incidentally, pay master points and 3. "tournaments" of which there are about 1,100 annually. If you click on "tournaments", you will get an opportunity to ask for either regional or sectional tournaments by month and year all over the US. I use this one all the time.

JOIN gives you the "reasons" and benefits of ACBL membership, shows you how to "join" and, for current members, allows you to "renew" your membership right there.

Next time I'll take you on a tour of "MY ACBL" which is really all about your ACBL

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. Here are the half way results for 2010. Kathleen Farrell and Patricia DiVincenzo had great results in the May tournament in Rutland. Kathy has taken the lead in the trophy race. Here are the top 10. Apologies to anyone I inadvertently omitted.

1.	Kathleen Farrell	24.79	6.	Bill Schiring	18.02
2.	Patricia DiVincenzo	22.35	6.	Nick Ecker Racz	18.02
3.	Mike Farrell	20.79	8.	Sally Newton	17.35
4.	Phil Sharpsteen	19.09	8.	John Newton	17.35
5.	Jerry DiVincenzo	18.35	10.	June Dorion	15.56

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. Last year's runner up, Karen Kristiansen, has the half way lead. Here are the top 10. Apologies to anyone I inadvertently omitted.

1.	Karen Kristiansen	12.55	6.	Lee Corbett	3.22
2..	John Conova	10.74	7.	Lisa Logan	2.62
3.	Neil Raphel	4.60	7.	Linda Aronsson	2.62
4.	Ross Lieb-Lappen	4.14	9.	Richard Clark	2.34
5.	Kay Fay	3.59	10.	Mark Adair	2.26
			10.	Vivienne Adair	2.26

VERMONT SPRING SECTIONAL RESULTS

**Rutland, VT
May 21-23, 2010**

Friday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
4.67	1			Bill Schiring – Nick Ecker Racz	64.10
3.50	2			Dave Shaw – Jackie Kimel	63.46
2.63	3			Donald Foote – Judy Maravolo-Foote	60.26
2.95	4	1	1	Deborah Crisfield – Jennifer Feltes	59.78
1.48	5			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	58.49
1.11	6			Judie Donald – Fred Donald, Jr.	58.01
2.21		2		Irene Vignoe – Patricia Williams	54.49
1.66		3	2	Rhoda Chickering – Sandy Desilets	53.69
1.24		4		Elizabeth VonRiesenfelder – C Kirk Osterland	53.37
1.22		5	3	Karen Haines – Jane Grewcock	53.04
0.74		6		Jay Friedenson – Ruth Stokes	52.88
0.92			4	Shirley Lappen – Ross Lieb-Lappen	51.76
0.76			5	John Maxwell – B Tysor	50.80
0.54			6	John Conova – Karen Kristiansen	50.00

Friday Evening Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
4.50	1			Jackie Kimel – Dave Shaw	66.19
3.38	2			S Michael Sharp – Nancy Sharp	61.86
2.53	3			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	60.10
1.90	4			Jerry DiVincenzo – Mike Farrell	58.97
1.58	5			Patricia Nestork – Lynn Carew	58.01
1.13	6/7			Andrew Dubay – Walter Smith	57.69
0.94	6/7			J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	57.69
2.68		1		Linda Bouyea – Paul Reardon	55.29

2.01	2	1	B Tysor – John Maxwell	54.97
1.51	3	2	Dale Collinson – Susan Collinson	53.85
1.27	4	3	John Conova – Karen Kristiansen	52.72
0.89	5		Alden Edwards – Jennifer Edwards	51.92
0.64	6		Bonnie Clouser – Mary Tierney	50.48
0.78		4	John Newton – Sally Newton	49.36
0.58		5	Rhoda Chickering – Sandy Desilets	48.24

Saturday Morning Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
5.83	1			Patricia DiVincenzo – Kathleen Farrell	61.04
4.37	2			Jerry DiVincenzo – Mike Farrell	60.51
3.28	3			Bill Schiring – Nick Ecker Racz	59.63
2.95	4	1	1	Deborah Sack – George Lander	57.52
2.21	5	2	2	Jan Gisholt – John Conova	56.48
1.81	6			William Dubay – Andrew Dubay	56.39
1.66		3		Alden Edwards – Jennifer Edwards	55.16
1.41		4		Paul Reardon – Linda Bouyea	53.75
1.10		5	3	John Newton – Sally Newton	52.89
0.99		6		Elizabeth VonRiesenfelder – C Kirk Osterland	52.57
0.92			4	Rhoda Chickering – Sandy Desilets	51.84
0.64			5	Karen Kristiansen – Kenneth Cestone	51.68

Saturday Morning 299er Pairs

MP	A	B	Names	PCT
1.41	1		Robert Dickson – Peter Mitchell	63.19
1.06	2		Carol Weaver – Carolyn Accardi	54.86
0.98	3	1	Margaret Winslow – Lyndal Winslow	53.47
0.65		2/3	Patricia Forbes – Millie Kimball	47.22
0.65		2/3	Barbara Pick – Sue Wallingford	47.22

Saturday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
5.17	1			Patricia DiVincenzo – Kathleen Farrell	60.87
3.88	2			Jerry DiVincenzo – Mike Farrell	59.74
2.91	3			Frank Hacker – Phil Sharpsteen	58.59
2.95	4	1	1	Robert Dickson – Peter Merrill	57.73
1.64	5			Nick Ecker Racz – Bill Schiring	57.72
1.23	6			Robert Donald – Diane Burger	57.14
2.21		2	2	Karen Haines – Jennifer Feltes	55.67
1.66		3		Linda Bouyea – Paul Reardon	55.24
1.41		4	3	John Newton – Sally Newton	54.02
0.93		5	4	Arlyne Berke – Susan Benson	52.10
0.99		6	5	Deborah Crisfield – Jane Grewcock	51.50

Sunday Open Swiss Teams

MP	A	B	C	Names	SCORE
5.50	1			Pierce Smith – Stewart Mackeigan Diane Burger – Robert Donald	84
4.13	2			Jerry DiVincenzo – Mike Farrell Patricia DiVincenzo – Kathleen Farrell	77
3.09	3			Fred Donald, Jr. – Rudy Polli Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	76
3.16	4	1	1	John Conova – Karen Kristiansen Sally Newton – John Newton	73
2.37		2		Paul Reardon – Linda Bouyea Mary Tierney – Bonnie Clouser	69

St. Johnsbury Unit Game

On May 8, Arthur Aiken and Jeannie Clermont of the Barton Bridge Club ran a unit game at the St. Johnsbury Good Living Senior Center for the benefit of the center. The contribution to the center was \$608. Canadian bridge star Allan Graves, who currently resides in Vermont, contributed his services. Robert McCall was the winner of the raffle to play with Allan. There were 2 sessions of bridge with a splendid lunch of sandwiches, chips, cookies, etc., between sessions. The bridge competition consisted of two single session events. The overall winners were

First Session

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT.
1.72	1			Dave Shaw – Jackie Kimel	63.19
1.29	2			J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	62.73
0.97	3			Allan Graves – Robert McCall	59.95
0.64	4/5			Alan Ferraro – Liz Ferraro	58.33
0.64	4/5			Judie Donald – Fred Donald	58.33
0.43	6			Sheila Long – Rosemarie Belisle	56.25
1.16		1		Karen Kristiansen – Neil Raphel	55.79
0.87		2		Joan LeBaron – Carl Stoneham	51.85
0.57		3/4		Brian Duran – Nicole Weiner	47.22
0.57		3/4		Scott Perry – Jim Abbott	47.22
0.83			1	Robin Kerr – Barbara Buchanan	46.53
0.62			2	William Beadle – Bernard Long	45.14

Second Session

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT.
1.72	1	1	1	Jim Abbott – Scott Perry	60.42
1.29	2	2	2	Barbara Buchanan – Robin Kerr	60.16
0.97	3			Alan Ferraro – Liz Ferraro	58.33
0.73	4			Fred Donald – Judie Donald	58.04
0.60	5			Lynn Carew – Alan Wertheimer	56.84
0.43	6			Sally Newton – John Newton	56.07
0.61		3		Brian Duran – Nicole Weiner	55.77
0.50		4	3	Joan LeBaron – Carl Stoneham	46.13

Nick Shows the Way

Nick Ecker Racz is the star of the show for his play of a very interesting hand from a recent Tuesday night game at the Burlington Bridge Academy. Would you have found Nick's line of play? Would you have defended better than the west player (Regrettably, your editor)?

	<u>North</u>	
	S 108	
	H Q1063	
	D AJ75	
	C 975	
<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
S 64		S K72
H AKJ84		H 9752
D Q832		D 1094
C A6		C QJ3
	<u>South</u>	
	S AQJ953	
	H void	
	D K6	
	C K10862	

The bidding was	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
	1S	2H	P	P
	3C	P	3NT	P
	4C	P	5C	all pass

The final contract was terrible and far inferior to 4 spades. Maybe north should have bid 4 spades instead of 5 clubs. Maybe south should have bid 4 spades instead of 4 clubs. But then there would have been no story.

There are a lot of finesses to take. They all win, but where are the entries to dummy. Nick found an interesting way to create a surprise entry. Nick trumped in hand the opening lead of the ace of hearts. He led his low diamond toward the dummy and took the diamond finesse!!! He led the 9 of clubs off dummy and passed it when east did not split his honors (splitting would not have helped). West won the ace and continued a club (as good as any). Nick captured east's jack with his king and led his king of diamonds. He overtook with dummy's ace and took the winning spade finesse. He made 5 clubs losing just 2 trump tricks.

Nick found a creative line of play, but we need to ask the obvious question, "Were the heroics really necessary?" It's possible to play the trump suit for 2 losers, simply by leading from south's hand. Nick could have used the ace of diamonds entry to take the spade finesse and played the trump suit from his hand. This would not have worked. East would have won the defense's first trump trick and returned a heart, forcing south to trump and lose control. West would eventually win the club ace and lead a high heart to set up a third trump winner. Declarer cannot make his contract if he has to ruff hearts three times.

OK! Nick found a brilliant line, but the defense could have defeated his plan. Do you see how?

West could have played the queen on the first diamond lead. This would have prevented the finesse and scuttled the attempt to create an additional dummy entry.

More on Entries

By Frank Hacker

While we are on the subject of entries, here is an old chestnut. South is declarer in 4 spades with an opening heart lead.

North

S 1098654
H KJ2
D A43
C A

South

S QJ732
H A103
D 765
C KQ

This hand looks easy. The opponents have given declarer the gift of the heart finesse on opening lead. Declarer can pitch a diamond loser on one of the high clubs. If trumps split, the contract will make with an overtrick.

Declarer ducked the opening heart lead in dummy. East played the queen and declarer won the ace. Declarer won the ace and led the queen of spades. West showed out. East won the king and returned the king of diamonds. **OOPS!!** Declarer had no entry to take his pitch and had to lose 2 diamond tricks and 2 trump tricks on a hand that looked easy. Leading clubs before trumps doesn't help. What should declarer have done?

Declarer should have played the jack of hearts from dummy at trick 1. Now the 10 of hearts becomes a hand entry. See, the hand was simple after all.

Mini-McKenney Race/Ace of Clubs

Every year the ACBL has several master point competitions. The Barry Crane top 500 race recognizes the top 500 master point winners for the year. The mini-McKenney races recognize the top performers in each masterpoint category, based on beginning of year status. The listings are by unit (in our case unit 175 - Vermont) or by district (in our case district 25 - New England) or for the entire ACBL. The unit listings give the top 10 winners by masterpoint category, the district listings the top 25 and the national listings the top 100. It has been several years, since we have published these results. Here are the 2009 top 3 in each category for the VT unit. Numbers in parentheses show district rank for those in the top 25. Bold numbers in parentheses show national rank for those in the top 100. Also, every year the ACBL has the Ace of Clubs race to

recognize master points won at the club level. Here are the 2009 winners. Congratulations to all for a job well done.

Mini-McKenney

Ace of Clubs

0-5 races

1.(20)	Mark Benson	26.15	1.	Mark Benson	19.81
2.	Patricia Eastman	12.15	2.	Patricia Eastman	11.59
3.	Eileen Mann	10.09	3.	Eileen Mann	10.09

5-20 races

1. (3)(67)	Israel Perlman	78.79	1.(2)(46)	Israel Perlman	64.50
2.(10)	Shirley Perlman	52.00	2.	Shirley Perlman	43.79
3.	Susan Benson	26.90	3.	Susan Benson	20.56

20-50 races

1.	Lee Corbett	31.14	1.	Marilyn Rice	24.52
2.	Marilyn Rice	26.59	2.	June Felis	22.75
3.	June Felis	23.33	3.	Lee Corbett	21.08

50-100 races

1.	Karen Kristiansen	68.76	1.	Donald Bly	49.06
2.	Donald Bly	60.14	2.	Diane Maher	33.14
3.	Linda Nelson	44.77	3.	Carolyn Kelley	30.64

100-200 races

1.	Sheila Long	89.20	1.	Richard Clark	50.07
2.	Richard Clark	60.14	2.	Wendy Baurmeister	46.98
3.	Wendy Baurmeister	52.32	3.	Constance Fitzcharles	31.47

200-300 races

1.	John Conova	87.00	1.(22)	Josephine Machera	54.22
2.	Sally Newton	71.76	2.	John Conova	37.84
2.	John Newton	71.76	3.	Judith Ward	21.95

300-500 races

1.	Elizabeth VonRiesenfelder	98.50	1.	Elizabeth VonRiesenfelder	57.92
2.	Carlos Galvan	88.13	2.	Carlos Galvan	56.64
3.	John Nelson	45.96	3.	Virginia Christy	28.95

500–1,000 races

1.	Norma Jakominich	137.54	1.	Nancy Lolli	97.85
2.	Ed Midgley	114.65	2.	Ed Midgley	87.43
3.	Judy Frank	107.65	3.	Judy Frank	82.72

1,000–2,500 races

1.(10)	Penny Lane	306.94	1.(12)	Jesse Stalker	145.99
2.	Jesse Stalker	187.10	2.(18)	Rudolph Polli	138.25
3.	Rudolph Polli	161.76	3.	David Miller	95.44

2,500–5,000 race

1.(14)	J Peter Tripp	314.25	1.	Kathleen Farrell	121.88
2.(19)	Wayne Hersey	294.84	2.	Wayne Hersey	120.17
3.	Courtney Nelson	197.89	3.	Fred Donald, Jr.	98.76

5,000–7,500 race

1.(10)	Frank Hacker	323.19	1.(8)	Frank Hacker	165.04
2.	James Gordon	134.07	2.	Anne Hoffman	12.88
3.	Anne Hoffman	54.88			

Over 10,000 race

1. (2)(27)	Allan Graves	1,204.07	1.	Allan Graves	12.03
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COMING ATTRACTIONS

June. 14-20	District 3 Spring Regional, Saratoga Hilton, Saratoga Springs, NY
June 21-27	NE Summer Regional, Sturbridge Host Hotel, Sturbridge, MA
June 29-July 4	CANAT Regional, World Trade and Convention Center, Halifax, NS
July 9-11	Vermont Summer Sectional, Holiday Inn, Rutland, VT (see flyer this issue)
July 16-18	Sectional, Schenectady, NY
July 22 – Aug. 1	Summer Nationals, New Orleans Marriott/Sheraton New Orleans, New Orleans, LA
Aug. 7	Marilyn Hacker Memorial Pairs, Burlington Bridge Acad., 10:30 AM
Aug. 9-15	CANAM Regional, Wyndham Airport Hotel, Montreal, QC
Aug. 14-15	Thomas Edison Sectional (NH unit), American Legion Hall, White River Jct., VT
Sep. 1-6	Labor Day Regional, Radisson Hotel, Nashua, NH
Oct. 1-16	World Bridge Series Championship, Philadelphia Marriott/Philadelphia Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA
Oct. 25-31	District 3 Regional, Danbury, CT
Oct. 29-31	Vermont Fall Sectional, Holiday Inn, Rutland, VT
Nov. 10-14	NE Masters Regional, Waterbury, CT
Nov. 25 – Dec. 5	Fall Nationals, Orlando

VERMONT SUMMER SECTIONAL

Holiday Inn - 476 US Route 7 South, Rutland, Vermont, 05701

July 9 - 11, 2010

Sanction # S1007052

Schedule of events:

Friday July 9th

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

Saturday July 10th

10:00AM Open Pairs, Stratified
Newcomer Pairs, Stratified
3:00PM Open Pairs, Stratified
Newcomer Pairs

Sunday July 11th

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

New Stratifications

Open Stratifications: A above 2500, B 750 to 2500, C 0 to 750

Swiss Team Stratifications: as above but will use the **average** master points for the team

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

Price per session: \$9 - \$1 additional for Non-ACBL members or members whose dues are not up-to-date

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 evening session and at 10:00AM, Sunday morning before the Swiss Teams.

Accommodations for the tournament at the Rutland Holiday Inn: For reservations call 1-800-462-4810

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	1 person	2 persons	
Double Bed 1 night	\$ 99	\$115	Prices
King Bed 1 night	\$105	\$125	do not
Double Bed 2 nights	\$179	\$209	Include
King Bed 2 nights	\$199	\$229	Tax

Package includes 1 complimentary hot breakfast per person per night and one \$10 food voucher per person per night

A publication of the Vermont Bridge Association
Frank A. Hacker, Editor
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Barre, VT 05641

The Vermont Bridge Association, Unit 175 of the American Contract Bridge League publishes Table Talk quarterly. If you are an ACBL and Unit 175 (Vermont) member And have not received a copy of Table Talk, please notify the editor. Contributors' articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the VBA.