

April, 1988 · Vol. 3, #2

> Editor L. Carew

Our advertisers are an important segment of the Vermont Bridge Newsletter. They are to be commended for supporting the Newsletter, patronized by our readers whenever possible, and recognized for their tremendous community service! Thanks to each of you.

A warm Vermont welcome to the following NEWCOMERS! Some of you are new to duplicate, others are transfers in from other units - but what you all have in common is a love of bridge. We hope to see you often at your local games and the Vermont Sectionals!

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SPRING SECTIONAL VERMONT JUNE CORTINA INN, RUTLAND

> JOIN THE FUN!

#### Bridge Laws, Rules, Maxims, Quotes, Dictas, Truisms and Trivia?

Rule 1: Partner is always wrong. Rule 2: If, by some quirk, partner happens to be right, refer to rule 1.

#### QUEEN-TEN-SENTIAL CARD PLAY

by Frank Hacker

One of my favorite card combinations is the Q and 10 together in the same hand. The reason is that this combination offers little known card play opportunities which seem to violate conventional bridge wisdom. In the following example South is playing 3NT after North has opened 1 spade. South, declarer, leads a low space toward dummy. You West, are next to play and can see the following cards in the spade suit.

		Dummy
	2	·A
•		J
		9 -
You	<i>*</i>	х
Q		х
10		
X		

Although conventional wisdom says second hand low, you had better insert the queen. If not, declarer will finesse the nine and knock out partner's king. A second finesse, this time of the jack, will pick up your queen and provide declarer 4 tricks in the suit. If you play the queen on the first round of the suit, declarer will have a much more difficult time. Declarer may still guess correctly, but he might well play you for both the K and Q and play the jack the second time around. If he does partner's king and your ten will both win tricks.

Now let's look at the Q 10 card combination from declarer's point of view. Let's assume that you, South, became declarer in 3NT, after East has overcalled 1 spade. West leads the 6 of spades. You are looking at the following collection:

• •			North	
Spade 6 led	S Q 10 x	HKQ	D Q J 10 x	<u>C</u> A 9 x
	<u>S</u> K x x	H A x	South  D K x x	<u>C</u> J 10 x
e F			x x x	

Prospects for nine + tricks are very good. East probably has the Ace of diamonds for his overcall, but that's no reason to get careless. East may have a reasonable overcall without the diamond ace. If you play small from dummy on the opening spade lead, East will play the nine. If you win the king at trick one and find the diamond ace with West, you will go down. West will return a space allowing East to run the suit. You could always duck the opening spade lead, but this fails when East has the diamond ace. East will simply clear spades and use the diamond ace as his entry to the setting tricks.

If you play the queen from dummy at trick one, East is in trouble. If he ducks, you will win the trick and still have a second spade stopper. If East wins, he will have to switch suits to keep you from getting two spade tricks. In either event 3NT will make easily. You play such a fine game!

In a lighter vein, how do you play a trump suit of J x x x x in dummy opposite A K 9 x x in your hand. Answer -- lead the jack from dummy. If the next hand follows low, you will play the ace followed by the king, winning 5 tricks unless the suit splits 3-0. If the next hand holds Q 10 x and is foolish enough to cover the jack, you will be able to avoid a loser in the suit.

As a change of pace I would like to entertain you with The Ballad of Sanborn Brown. This ballad, sung to the Battle Hymn of the Republic, appeared in a 1960's issue of Texas Bridge, edited, until his death in 1964, by John B. Hathorn.

San Brown's partner sits a squirmin' in his chair. He's in a hopeless contract and ol' Sanborn put him there. What Sanborn lacks in high card points, he supplements with prayer. He just keeps bidding on.

#### Refrain:

Glory, glory, he's a bidder. Glory, glory, he's no quitter. Glory, glory, he's a bidder. He just keeps bidding on.

San Brown's bidding is a thing to cause despair. He overcalls on garbage and he doubles on a prayer. He makes free bids on high card points that are not even there. He just keeps bidding on.

#### Refrain:

Now, Sanborn is a bidder, but he also is a player. If he finds he's overbid a bit, he doesn't even care. He finds a pseudo double squeeze to pull tricks from thin air. He just keeps bidding on.

#### Refrain:

So you see there is a reason. It's not as people say. As long as Sanborn plays so well, he'll probably bid that way. He has to bid aggressively to stimulate his play. He just keeps bidding on.

#### Refrain:

#### PLAY MORE BRIDGE IN VERMONT!!

The Brattleboro Duplicate Bridge Club is once again operating, now under the direction of Stuart Osborn. It convenes on Wednesday evenings, 7:30, at 100 Melrose Terrace in Brattleboro.

A <u>new</u> club, the **Killington Village Duplicate Bridge Club**, will meet for the summer months only (July and August) with three sessions per week - Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7:30 at Killington Village. Edward Freeman will run these games.

#### TOURNAMENT RESULTS

#### GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS - February 7, 1988

#### Flight A

Marilyn & Frank Hacker, Rob Tamlyn, Phil Sharpsteen

#### Flight B

- Marilyn Colman, Bill Becker, Scott Aborn, Charles Whitney
- Lynn Carew, Pat Nestork, Eileen Fleiter, Jackie Kimel
- Louise & Chris Acker, Barbara & Dick Unger
- Ruth & Ozzie Kramer, Jane Gregory, Barbara Fitz-Gerald
- Herb Franzen, Tom Unsworth, Evan Hackel, John Wilson

#### VERMONT WINTER SECTIONAL (LaGue Inn, Berlin) March 4, 1988

#### Friday Night Swiss Pairs

	1) 2) 3)	Barbara Fitz-Gerald, Jane Gregory Edsel Hughes, Dave Shaw Guy Smythe, Richard Spiese	4) 5) 6)	Bruce Curtis, Tom Belville Phil Sharpsteen, Grant Pealer Barbara Henderson, Hazel Willey	
in the second se	1)	urday Afternoon  N-S  Richard Spiese, Guy Smythe  Patty DiVincenzo, Jackie Kimel  Phil Sharpsteen, Fred Donald  Bill Schiring, Bryant Jones  James McGlinn, Sandra Waugh  Dave Shaw, Edsel Hughes	2) 3) 4)	E-W Rob Tamlyn, Frank Hacker Flo and Paul Ludwig Jean & Abe Brown Phillipa Tanton, Jeff Doucette Pat Nestork, Lynn Carew Molly & Ron Turnbull	
	1) 2) 3)	urday Night Consolation  N-S Babs & Henry Goss (2) Judy Donald, Cliff Gordon (3) Dick Unger, Larry Wagner (4)	1) 2) 3)	E-W Barbara Henderson, Maurice Emond Jane Gregory, Barbara Fitz-Gerald Pat Studer, Therese Graves	(1) (5)
	1/2 1/2	urday Night Finals  N-S  Frank Hacker, Rob Tamlyn (1)  Flo & Paul Ludwig (2)  Phillipa Tanton, Jeff Doucette (3)	1) 2) 3)	E-W Lynn Carew, Pat Nestork Jackie Kimel, Patty DiVincenzo Dave Shaw, Edsel Hughes	(5) (4) (6)
	Sun	day Swiss Teams			

- Phil Sharpsteen, Rob Tamlyn, Marilyn & Frank Hacker
- Molly & Ron Turnbull, Phillipa Tanton, Jeff Doucette
- Lorraine & Jim Gordon, Patty & Jerry DiVincenzo 3)
- Louise & Chris Acker, Pat Nestork, Lynn Carew
- Jackie Kimel, Merritt Orcutt, Fred Donald, Rudy Polli

#### Woodstock Unit Game, March 23, 1988

- 1/2 Andy TriantaLilloo, Don Thompson
- 1/2 Peggy & Norm Dalrymple
- 3 Marcia Wilking, Judy Wagner

#### 1988 BRIDGE CALENDAR

#### GAMES UPCOMING IN VERMONT

	June	3-5		VT SPRING SECTIONAL. Cortina Inn, Rutland.	
	July	3-23		North American Open Pairs - Qualifying. (Club Level).	
	July	29-31		VT SUMMER SECTIONAL. Vergennes High School.	į.
	Aug.	8-28		North American Non-Life Master Pairs - Qualifying (Club Leve	1).
	Oct.	1 .		North American Pairs, Unit Finals, Middlebury.	
	Oct.	2 or 9	???	President's Cup.	1
	Nov.	4-6		VT FALL SECTIONAL. Cortina Inn, Rutland.	
	Nov.		4		•
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#### OTHER GAMES OF INTEREST

June 3	Epson Worldwide Bridge Contest. (Held at VI Spring Sectional)
June 17-19	Regional - New England Seniors (55+). Hyannis, MA.
July 8-10	Regional - New England Summer. Manchester, NH.
July 15-17	Sectional - Plattsburgh, NY.
July 29-Aug 7	Summer Nationals, Salt Lake City, UT.
Aug. 24-28	Regional - District 3 Split. Albany, NY.
Sept. 2-5	Regional - Springfield, MA.
Oct. 29-30	Grand National Open Pairs, Westborough MA. District Level.
Nov. 11-13	Regional - Cromwell, CT

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#### A ROCK STAR'S MESSAGE TO BRIDGE

by Marilyn Hacker

The title of a recent song of Madonna's is "Papa, Don't Preach," but we bridge players know that she really meant to say "Partner, Don't Teach." As a matter of fact, the <u>Laws of Duplicate Bridge</u> state that "a player should carefully avoid any remark or action that cases annoyance or embarrassment to another player." Surprisingly, this includes partner. We've all been at the bridge table where one partner is explosively abusing another. This is a no-no! The best time for discussion and lessons is after the game, not the heat of the moment.

There are other, more subtle ways of making the other people at the table feel uncomfortable. Suppose you have just gotten a good board. Have you and partner ever "discussed" this board: (Nothing as blatant as outright gloating.) Another no-no.

Back to teaching - be honest. Have you ever tried to teach an opponent the right way to do something? Sometimes the urge is almost irresistible - but don't succumb. Remember the old T.V. show <u>Lost in Space</u> when that stupid robot would come out yelling "Danger, danger." That's the image which should come to mind when next you have the urge to give the opponents unsolicited advice.

Look at it this way. We all have egos and nobody likes to have his trampled.



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Are you interested in running/ hosting any special Unit games in 1988?? Call Barbara Fitz-Gerald at. 877-2539.

The only thing we learn from our mistakes is that we learn nothing from our mistakes. .

#### LEADERS FOR THE TIERNAN MEMORIAL TROPHY - 1988

(Total Points Won at Vermont Sectionals)

1/2	Frank Hacker	14.45	6	Patty DiVincenzo	•	6.21
1/2	Rob Tamlyn	14.45	7/8	Edsel Hughes		5.05
3	Phil Sharpsteen	8.64	7/8	Dave Shaw		5.05
4/5	Barbara Fitz-Gerald	6.34	. 9/10	Lynn Carew	¥	4.28
4/5	Jane Gregory	6.34	9/10	Pat Nestork		4.28

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#### DID THE RUSSIANS INVENT BRIDGE?

by John Vogeler

Recent evidence strongly suggests that the origin of the name, if not the game of bridge is Russian.

While playing cards were known in China as early as 979 A.D., the game of bridge can trace its ancestry to the early 16th Century, when prototype forms of whist were played in England. "Bridge Whist" was first introduced to British officers during the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878. A major change of the game was to allow the dealer or his partner to announce the trump suit. In Imperial times, the Russian word "biritch" meant a town crier whose official duty was to announce government edicts. In French, "annoncer" means to bid.

Modern bridge began with the auction principle, introduced in 1904, and evolved into today's game in 1925 when Harold Vanderbilt perfected a new form of the game embodying the "contract" or ceiling idea, the element of vulnerability and a scoring table that neatly balances risk and reward.

Although the USSR is not a member of the World Bridge Federation, and does not compete in International events, the game has a small core of devotees in that country. One is compelled to speculate - do Mikhail and Raisa play? If so, this could present an opportunity to add warmth to the thaw in East-West relations hoped for this summer in Moscow.

#### NOTES

There is a marvelous superfluity of LIFE MASTERS in this issue with no fewer than two! STUART OSBORN and LARRY WAGNER both hit the big time this winter. Congratulations, fellows.

BARBARA FITZ-GERALD has agreed to become this year's UNIT GAMES CHAIRMAN, on top of all her many other activities. Anyone interested in running a special Unit game during 1988 should check with her (RD 2, Box 149, Vergennes, 05491. Phone 877-2539).

MAX LASSITER, as one of our more active and enthusiastic new players, will take on the position of NOVICE CHAIRMAN for the state.

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#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Lynn,

My wife and I felt compelled to share a thought or two with you and the other Bridge players on Tuesday night. Being beginners at Bridge we can only just begin to fathom the many possibilities of the game and often find ourselves overwhelmed by it. At first there was a great deal of apprehension on our part, and even reluctance to take Chris Acker's class, but we now find ourselves at a point we did not anticipate. And that is, that we have found an activity that has brought us a lot of fun, mental stimulation, and the company of some really nice people. We both feel that Bridge will be a continued part of our life for many years to come, and that it will provide us with constant challenge, and good company. We would also like to thank David Shaw for recommending the game, Chris Acker for his patient help and instruction, and lastly to you and the other players for making us to feel welcome among you.

Appreciatively yours,

Patrick and Patricia Cummings South Burlington



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