

TABLE TALK

A Publication of the Vermont Bridge Association
Editor: Frank Hacker

September 2014
frankhacker3904@comcast.net



Linda and Arthur Aiken are this issue's featured personalities. They have been contributors to bridge in northern Vermont for many years. They tell their story below.

My early childhood years were at a remote Canadian Customs outpost at Province Hill, Quebec and the port of North Troy, Vermont. It was so remote that the Canadian authorities decided it was less expensive to pay tuition to the Town of Troy school system than to transport me 10 miles to the nearest Canadian school. After 2 years traveling to North Troy, the officials decided to bus me to Mansonville for school. The road to school was often blocked by snow or was too muddy to travel. The school in Mansonville, Quebec educated students through grade 9. High school was in Knowlton, some 25 miles away. Here, I met Linda, the love of my life. From high school, I moved on to the Canadian Army and Canadair Limited in Montreal and studied engineering. I earned my Commission as an Officer of the Royal Horse Drawn Artillery in the Canadian Army. After a brief stay in the bunker oil and electrical contracting business, I was offered a position at the Space Research Corporation (SRC), as the assistant to the manager of the Highwater Test Laboratory. When SRC started accepting U.S. Government contracts, an office was opened in Newport, Vermont. The company moved the Aiken family to Vermont. My

assignment to the Newport office was to be the materials manager for SRC. I was responsible for acquiring and shipping materials for the facilities at Highwater, Quebec, North Troy, Vermont, Yuma, Arizona and Barbados, West Indies. Rather than having a duplication of manufacturing equipment and personnel in Quebec and Vermont, I contacted the U.S. Customs with a proposal to have a compound straddling the border. The American side of the compound would be located in the Town of Jay. When the compound was completed, it encompassed 6000+ acres with an entrance from the USA and an entrance from Canada. My next assignment was to open an office in Brussels, Belgium. In 1976, we (the family) moved to Belgium, where we remained for four and a half years. After Space Research closed, we made the decision to stay in Vermont and we became U.S. citizens. I spent a year as an independent consultant for a European company, then started a business that established product lines for an industrial supply business that specialized in supplying expendable tooling for the furniture industry. After 18 years in the supply business, I decided to retire. Retirement was not for me. I needed something to do part time. I wrote the Realtor exam for a sales agent and after meeting the necessary requirements, I wrote the broker's exam. Presently, I am the broker in charge at the Barton Office of Coldwell Banker All Seasons Realty.

Linda's Canadian roots began in Knowlton, Quebec. After graduating from Knowlton Composite High School, she attended Macdonald College of McGill University and started her teaching career in Lennoxville, Quebec. From Lennoxville, she took time out to marry Arthur and moved to Mansonville when Arthur started employment with the Space Research Institute and eventually relocated to North Troy, Vermont. Linda continued teaching until she moved with Arthur and their two children to Brussels, Belgium. During her stay in Belgium, she devoted her time volunteering and substituting at St. John's International School, studying French and touring visiting relatives and friends around Belgium. Upon her return from Belgium, she worked at the Passumpsic Savings Bank in Newport, but quickly returned to teaching (her passion), while studying business management for her Master's degree, and then pursued her educational leadership certification. Linda accepted the principal position in Westfield, then Holland Elementary School for nine years. The final ten years of her career in education were at the Lakeview Union School in Greensboro from where she retired after 38 years in education.

My first encounter with duplicate bridge was in the library in East Burke, Vermont. The game, managed by Sheila Long, moved to Lyndonville and eventually became a sanctioned ACBL game with Jeannie Clermont as the director. Now, there are two sanctioned games in the area each week – once a week in Barton and bi-weekly in Lyndonville and in St. Johnsbury. Linda decided to take up playing bridge 5 years ago so she could participate in an activity with her husband of 51 years. Since playing as a team, we have played in tournaments in Tucson, Gatlinburg, Boston, Montreal, Fredericksburg, Portland, Burlington and Rutland, meeting many fascinating people.

In 2012, we opened a bridge club in Barton, Vermont. Arthur is the director of the Barton Club that plays every Monday afternoon at 12:30 PM.

Linda's music still trumps bridge. She plays clarinet with several area music groups including the Newport Area Community Orchestra, the Northeast Kingdom Wind Symphony and two wind ensembles but takes time to accompany me to as many bridge games as possible.

Dear Friends

This is Frank. As many of you already know, I am no longer a Vermont resident. I moved to Fort Myers, Florida on August 8. This will be my last issue of Table Talk. I have been editing Table Talk since 2004 and would feel terrible if no one took over and TT ceased to exist. I believe Table Talk sets Vermont apart from some of the other units in New England. Of the 8 NE units, Maine, Connecticut and Eastern Mass also have newsletters. New Hampshire, Central MA, Western MA and RI (at least not of the same length and quality) do not. Table Talk puts VT up there with the big boys. This has been my motivation to keep going for 10 years. I moved to Vermont 28 years ago. Table Talk existed at that time. The editor was Lynn Carew. Through the years TT has had a succession of editors: Ed Brass, Michael Arnowitz, Scott Aborn, Sibyl Ferguson, Kate Stewart. Someone has always stepped in to fill the void. Please step forward and keep the tradition going.

By the way, I have also been keeping track of the top 100 and both the Tiernan and Aborn trophy races. Kim Likakis will take on the top 100 list, but we need a trophy race volunteer.

St. Johnsbury Unit Game

On June 14, a unit game was held in St. Johnsbury for the benefit of the Good Living Senior Center. The game raised \$850 for the senior center.

The bridge winners were:

First Session NS

MP			Score
1.49	1	J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	140.49
1.04	2	Jeannie Clermont – Sandra Corrigan	119.84
0.75	3	Pat Nestork – Lynn Carew	118.69
0.52	4	Mary Savko – Ellie Hanlon	118.30

First Session EW

MP			Score
1.49	1	Susan King – Stephen King	137.78
1.04	2	Judie Donald – Fred Donald	134.60
0.75	3	Wayne Hersey – Rick Clark	133.18
0.78	4	Karen Hewitt – Art Keppelman (also 1 st in B)	120.90

Second Session NS

MP			Score
1.49	1	Janet Savage – Janet Long	140.00
1.04	2	Karen Hewitt – Art Keppelman	126.00
0.64	3/4	James Abbott – Barbara Varney	115.00
0.64	3/4	Liz Ferraro – Alan Ferraro	115.00

Second Session EW

<u>MP</u>			<u>Score</u>
1.49	1	Fred Donald – Judie Donald	139.50
1.04	2	J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	137.00
0.75	3	Lynn Carew – Pat Nestork	136.00
0.83	4	Karen Kristiansen – Sheila Long (also 1 st in B)	134.00

Bill Becker Memorial Pairs

On August 7, the Marble Valley Bridge Club of Rutland held its annual unit game in memory of Bill Becker. Here are the winners.

<u>MP</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>		<u>Score</u>
2.13	1		Paul Cohen – Jean Seward	69.00
1.60	2		June Dorion – Wayne Hersey	63.50
1.20	3		John Conova – Norma Jakominich	61.50
1.20	4	1	Kim Likakis – Kate Stewart	58.00
0.90		2	Burt Honig – Naomi Honig	53.50

Table Talk is fortunate to have an article by Jerry DiVincenzo. Jerry lives in the Burlington area and has been one of Vermont's top players for several years. He is a multiple winner of the Tiernan trophy which goes every year to the top masterpoint winner at Vermont's four sectional tournaments. Jerry's article is very instructive and will reward your effort to follow his discussion.

ARCH

By Jerry DiVincenzo

After the bidding is completed, the contract is reached and the opening lead is made, the player who becomes the declarer needs to go through a process to decide the best way to approach the play. Whether the hand is simple or complex the declarer must go through a thought process before play begins and before a card is called from the dummy. ARCH is an acronym, which stands for the four steps involved in that process.

A = analyze the dummy

R = review the bidding

C = count your tricks

H = how do I make the contract

When the opening lead is made and before playing a card from the dummy the declarer needs to go through this or a similar process. Playing a card in the suit led before seeing the entire dummy is poor declarer play. Take time to assess the dummy. Review the opponents' and your bidding; the opponents' bids including passes will help you assess their hands and guide some of your play. Counting your tricks is a key step in planning the declarer's play. Rarely does the declarer have enough top tricks to make the contract. Deciding how the declarer develops the additional needed tricks is the key to making the contract. These tricks may come from forcing out high cards in your long suit, finesses, developing long suits through multiple finesses or ruffing, and ruffing side suit cards to add to the declarer's trick total. The declarer may also work toward an end position which will squeeze the opponent out of a trick or make the opponent lead a card which will provide an additional trick for the declarer. The declarer may also play the hand in a manner that allows the opponents to discard incorrectly.

Four hands are provided to demonstrate the use of ARCH. Except for the first hand they were played at the Burlington Bridge Club. All hands have been arranged to make South the declarer.

Hand 1.

Bidding

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	P	1N	P
3N	all pass		

The opening lead is the 10 of spades.

		<u>North</u>			
		S	76		
		H	AQ5		
		D	KQ962		
		C	532		
	<u>West</u>			<u>East</u>	
S	K10954			S	Q83
H	K104			H	J932
D	84			D	75
C	K106			C	J974
		<u>South</u>			
		S	AJ2		
		H	876		
		D	AJ103		
		C	AQ8		

1. On hand #1 South is in 3NT and West leads the 10 of spades. This appears to be a normal contract; the declarer plays a low club from the dummy and East plays the queen; the declarer wins the

ace. (A/R) The declarer counts 5 diamonds and 3 aces for 8 top tricks. (C) The ninth trick will come from a finesse in either hearts or clubs. To make this contract you need to keep East, who will lead a spade at the first opportunity, off lead. The best chance to make the contract is to cross to a diamond and take the club finesse. (H) If that fails the heart finesse is taken later in the hand.

Hand 2.

Bidding

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	P	1S	P
2C	P	2N	P
6N	all pass		

The opening lead is the 8 of clubs.

		<u>North</u>	
		S A	
		H J1075	
		D KQ62	
		C AQJ2	
	<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
S	654		S K1083
H	K9863		H 42
D	84		D J1075
C	876		C 943
		<u>South</u>	
		S QJ972	
		H AQ	
		D A93	
		C K105	

2. On hand #2 South opens 1S and rebids 2NT over North's 2C response. Since this shows a 5 card spade suit and 1NT values, North bids 6NT ending the auction. West leads the 8C and the declarer sees that even though North and South have 33 HCPs, the slam is no sure thing. (A) South can count 4 clubs, 3 diamonds and 2 major suit aces for 9 top tricks. (C) If he develops 2 more in hearts he will need a 3/3 diamond split to make the hand. (C) South wins the opening lead in the dummy and takes the heart finesse hoping that the East hand has king doubleton of hearts. With 4 heart tricks he will not need a 3/3 diamond split, which occurs 36% of the time, to make the hand. (H) The heart finesse fails and a club is returned. South wins in his hand and notes he has 11 tricks; South must make 4 diamond tricks to make the contract. The declarer reassesses his chances and notes that if the king of spades is in the hand with 4 or more diamonds he can force that defender to discard a diamond or the KS, which will give him the contract. (H) The declarer returns to the dummy to play the ace of spades and runs his club and heart tricks. This sequence of plays improves the declarer's odds to make the contract to 60%. When 6 cards are missing in a suit, 48% of the time they divide 4/2; therefore 24% of the time the hand with 4 or more

diamonds will hold the king of spades. When the declarer cashes his last winner he will have 4 diamonds to the KQ in the dummy and 3 diamonds to the ace and the QS in his hand. If the declarer does not see the KS discarded, he runs the diamonds. If, as a defender you find yourself in this situation, you need to discard the KS in case your partner holds the QS. The declarer cannot make the contract without the ace of diamonds.

Hand 3.

Bidding

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	P	P	P
1D	P	1S	P
2S	all pass		

The opening lead is the 10 of spades.

		<u>North</u>	
		S AQ74	
		H Q105	
		D K1062	
		C KJ	
	<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
S	1096		S K
H	A74		H 9632
D	85		D AJ943
C	A8763		C Q104
		<u>South</u>	
		S J8532	
		H KJ8	
		D Q7	
		C 952	

3. On hand #3 North opens 1D in 4th position and raises South's 1S response to 2S, which ends the auction. The opening lead is the ten of spades. Your partner's bid is good and your chances for 8 tricks are excellent. (A) A review of the bidding confirms neither opponent has an opening bid. (R) 4 spades, 2 hearts and 1 diamond are 7 sure tricks. (C) The opening lead of the 10S indicates his partner has the king of spades. You play the ace and are rewarded when East drops the king. The declarer takes 2 more rounds of trump ending in the dummy and leads a heart to the king, which is taken by West who returns a heart to the dummy's 10. The declarer leads a diamond to the queen and on winning the trick leads a diamond back to dummy's 10 and East's jack. East returns a heart to dummy's queen. The declarer ruffs a diamond to his hand and now has to make one club trick for an overtrick and an excellent match point score. East has already shown the king of spades and the ace and jack of diamonds. If he had the ace of clubs, he would have opened the bidding. (R) When the declarer leads a low club the proper play from dummy is the king. (H)

Hand 4.

Bidding

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1D	P	1S	P
1N	P	4S	All Pass

The opening lead is the J of hearts.

		<u>North</u>			
		S	Q		
		H	8653		
		D	AQ62		
		C	KQ86		
<u>West</u>				<u>East</u>	
S	109654			S	3
H	J107			H	KQ92
D	J9743			D	1085
C	void			C	AJ1074
		<u>South</u>			
		S	AKJ872		
		H	A4		
		D	K		
		C	9532		

4. Hand #4 is more complex and is best reviewed without looking at the East/West hands. After the opening lead South assesses the dummy and his hand and concludes that he will be able to make 1 or 2 overtricks unless the spade break badly. (A) The opponents did not bid. (R). Most declarers counted on 6 spades, 1 heart, 3 diamonds and at least 1 club for a total of 11 tricks; 12 if the ace of clubs is in front of the KQ. (C) At this point most declarers cashed the KD, crossed to the QS and ran 2 diamonds discarding a heart and a club. These declarers trumped a heart in their hand, which surrendered control of the hand to West, and cashed their high spades. Belatedly South now realized he was not going to make the contract. South led a club on which West discarded his last heart. East won the ace of clubs and led a heart. This was trumped by South and overtrumped by West, who had 2 good diamonds. South needs to assure himself of making 4 spades and maintain control of the hand. (H) South should play a spade to the queen and a diamond back to the king. He then draws 3 more trumps and leads a club. West will discard a heart and over ruff the declarer when East, after winning ace of clubs, leads hearts. At this point West will lead a diamond and South can discard 2 losing clubs and make 4 spades. If the spades were 4/2 or 3/3, the declarer would have lost a club and a heart instead of 2 clubs. As long as East has the ace of clubs South will make 4 spades, if after cashing the KD and crossing to the QS, he cashes only 1 diamond, discards his heart, ruffs a heart to get to his hand, takes 3 more trumps and leads a club. West will discard his heart and over ruff South when a heart is led and trumped by South. Since East can only lead a diamond to North's queen South will make the diamond and club to bring his total to 10 tricks: 5

spades, 1 heart, 3 diamonds and 1 club. If West has the ace of clubs he will take it on the club lead, and draw the remaining trump so that East/West can cash their remaining hearts.

2013 Tiernan Trophy Race

Every year the Vermont Bridge Association awards the Tiernan Trophy to the Vermont player who wins the most masterpoints in the 4 Vermont Sectional Tournaments. Here are the 2014 standings after two tournaments. As usual, I apologize for any errors or inadvertent omissions.

1.	Mike Farrell	21.20	6.	Jay Friedenson	16.80
1.	Jerry DiVincenzo	21.20	7.	Fred Donald	15.42
3.	Phil Sharpsteen	21.14	8.	Judie Donald	12.68
4.	Kathy Farrell	19.41	9.	Vivienne Adair	11.78
4.	Patty DiVincenzo	19.41	9.	Mark Adair	11.78

2013 Aborn Trophy Race

Every year the Vermont Bridge Association awards the Aborn Trophy to the Vermont player who starts the year as a non-Life Master and wins the most masterpoints in the 4 Vermont Sectional Tournaments. Here are the 2014 standings after two tournaments. As usual, I apologize for any errors or inadvertent omissions.

1.	Vivienne Adair	11.78	5.	Ken Kaleita	6.77
1.	Mark Adair	11.78	7.	Jim Abbott	5.18
3.	Richard Tracy	10.60	8.	Eric McCann	5.18
4.	Shirley Perlman	8.19	9.	Mike Bell	5.10
5.	Linda Kaleita	6.77	10.	Jenny Bell	4.04
			10.	Jody Petterson	4.04

Have You Visited

The ACBL's new website. I really like the new layout. You can find a lot more information on the new website than on the old. It takes a little getting used to. What doesn't? I think you'll like it. Since I have changed my address to Florida, I have found out that I rank 106 in District 25's master point hierarchy.

Clearly Florida is a lot different from Vermont.

Vermont Spring Sectional

Burlington Bridge Academy, Williston, VT

May 30 – June 1, 2014

Friday Morning Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C		Pct
4.17	1			Jerry DiVincenzo – Mike Farrell	68.17
3.13	2	1		Lynn Carew – Pat Nestork	65.75
2.35	3	2		Mary Tierney – Mark Oettinger	61.38
1.76	4			June Dorion – Wayne Hersey	59.09
1.32	5			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	56.75
1.56	6	3		Michael Rogers – Peter Allen	56.43
1.77		4	1	Raymond Lopes – Linda Baker	55.10
0.88		5		Jackie Kimel – Stanley Rosenthal	51.77
1.33			2	Rhoda Chickering – Sandy Desilets	49.65
1.00			3	Deirdre Ellerson – Dulany Bennett	42.16
0.75			4	Richard Hess – Carol Hess	41.84

Friday Morning 299er Pairs

MP					Pct
1.31		1		Linda Kaleita – Ken Kaleita	73.00
0.98		2		Linda Brenner – Colleen Fitzgerald	57.00

Friday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C		Pct
3.83	1	1		Abe Brown – Jean Brown	61.55
2.87	2			Ellie Hanlon – Mary Savko	58.22
2.19	3	2		Peter Allen – Michael Rogers	57.20
1.62	4			Frank Hacker – Phil Sharpsteen	57.01
1.64	5	3		Jackie Kimel – Stanley Rosenthal	56.99
0.96	6/7			Judie Donald – Fred Donald	56.82
0.80	6/7			Patty DiVincenzo – Kathy Farrell	56.82
1.23		4		Alan Wertheimer – Jay Friedenson	56.64
0.92		5		Pat Nestork – Lynn Carew	54.73
1.88		6	1	Grant Pealer – Doug Wacek	52.10
1.41			2	Jim Abbott – Eric McCann	51.51
1.06			3	Mike Bell – George Malek	50.87
0.79			4	June Silverman – Ron Silverman	47.55

Saturday Morning Open Pairs

<u>MP</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>		<u>Pct</u>
4.83	1	1	1	Richard Tracy – “Tink” Tysor	72.54
3.62	2			Patty DiVincenzo – Kathy Farrell	60.23
2.72	3			June Dorion – Wayne Hersey	59.66
2.08	4	2		Jon Stokes – Ruth Stokes	57.77
1.56	5	3	2	Mike Borushok – Rick Clark	56.25
1.34	6			Fred Donald – Judie Donald	56.06
1.17		4		Mike Rogers – Robert Dickson	55.87
1.06		5	3	John Newton – Sally Newton	54.17
0.92			4	Ken Kaleita – Linda Kaleita	52.46

Saturday Morning 299er Pairs

<u>MP</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>			<u>Pct</u>
1.61	1	1		Carol Slesar – Margie Berger	61.98
1.21	2			Anne McCune – Margaret Fanning	61.31
0.91	3			Jim Abbott – Eric McCann	58.33
0.83	4	2		Colleen Fitzgerald – Frances Griffis	56.55

Saturday Afternoon Open Pairs

<u>MP</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>		<u>Pct</u>
4.00	1			Ellie Hanlon – Mary Savko	69.46
3.00	2			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	64.29
3.06	3	1		Lynn Carew – Pat Nestork	60.84
1.69	4			Jerry DiVincenzo – Mike Farrell	59.41
2.30	5	2		Mike Rogers – Robert Dickson	56.40
0.95	6			Judie Donald – Fred Donald	56.06
2.00		3	1	John Newton – Sally Newton	56.00
1.50		4	2	Rick Clark – Mike Borushok	53.53
1.13		5	3	Mark Adair – Vivienne Adair	51.17
1.02		6	4	Ken Kaleita – Linda Kaleita	51.04
0.63			5	Richard Tracy – “Tink” Tysor	50.58

Sunday Swiss Teams

<u>MP</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>		<u>Score</u>
6.25	1			Rudy Polli – Fred Donald – Judie Donald	85
				Frank Hacker – Phil Sharpsteen	
4.69	2			Ellie Hanlon – Mary Savko	83

3.08	3/4			Jackie Kimel – John Kimel	
				Jerry DiVincenzo – Patty DiVincenzo	79
				Mike Farrell – Kathy Farrell	
3.08	3/4			J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	79
				June Dorion – Wayne Hersey	
4.59	5	1	1	Mark Adair – Vivienne Adair	69
				Rhoda Chickering – Rick Clark	
3.44		2		Paul Reardon - Kotze Toshev	67
				Stan Rosenthal – Gary Feingold	
2.58		3		Jay Friedenson – Alan Wertheimer	64
				Jon Stokes – Ruth Stokes	
1.74		4/5		George Onni – Mike Rogers	55
				Peter Mitchell – Robert Dickson	
2.39		4/5	2	Jim Abbott – Eric McCann	55
				John Newton – Sally Newton	
1.79			3	Jenny Bell – Mike Bell	52
				Jody Petterson – Karen Hewitt	

The editor would like to thank his friend Evelyn Mintzer of Des Moines, Iowa for the following hand. Evie has contributed to Table Talk in the past.

I Love Interesting Hands!!!!

By Evie Mintzer

Here is a hand from Thursday, May 15th.

North - South vulnerable.

Bidding:

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
	3H	5D	P
6D	P	P	6H
D	All Pass		

		<u>North</u>			
		S	K		
		H	A3		
		D	AKQ1042		
		C	K975		
<u>West</u>				<u>East</u>	
S	void	S	QJ54	H	976
H	KQJ108542	H	976	D	J65
D	9	D	J65	C	QJ10
C	8632	C	QJ10		
		<u>South</u>			
		S	A10987632		
		H	void		
		D	873		
		C	A4		

The defenders collected 500 for a poor result. It looks like 7D is a good contract, but, of course, with West's spade void, that can be set at trick 1 with a spade lead.

The interesting feature of this hand is that 6S can make. That looks to be impossible, because East appears to have 2 spade tricks.

After the lead of the K of hearts, declarer needs to play low and trump it in hand. A spade to the K reveals the 4 - 0 split.

Declarer needs to shorten her trump by trumping 3 more cards from dummy to reduce her length to the same as East's. Declarer starts by trumping the A of hearts and follows by 3 rounds of clubs trumping the third in hand. If declarer cashes 2 rounds of diamonds along the way, she ends up with the lead in hand in the following end position.

		<u>North</u>			
		S	void		
		H	void		
		D	A1042		
		C	9		
<u>West</u>				<u>East</u>	
S	void	S	QJ5	H	9
H	QJ108	H	9	D	J
D	void	D	J	C	void
C	8	C	void		
		<u>South</u>			
		S	A1098		
		H	void		
		D	8		
		C	void		

Declarer leads a diamond to the A, followed by trumping a club or a diamond in hand. East must discard the 9 of hearts. Then comes the coup de grace. Declarer exits with the 8 of spades, executing the end play to pick up the remaining trumps.

Stimulating the Play

By Frank Hacker

Here is a hand from a recent online duplicate. You are South and your partner is a robot (robot is the term for a computer partner). In case you're wondering, the 4NT was not Blackwood, but quantitative, that is, invitational to 6NT. The bidding and the NS hands are presented below. The opening lead is the Q of hearts. How do you plan to make 6NT? By the way, I had an article in the previous issue with the same title – seems to fit.

Bidding:

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
1H	P	1S	P
2N	P	3D	P
3N	P	4N	P
6N	All Pass		

North

S K10743
H 7
D AQ62
C KQ3

South

S A9
H AK543
D K84
C AJ5

The spade suit is the key. You have eight obvious tricks in hearts, diamonds and clubs, with a possible ninth if diamonds break 3-3. Count on needing four spade tricks. This will be easy with a 3-3 split. Any non-insane line will work. What if spades don't all come tumbling down? What is the best line of play?

Let's not worry about the more exotic splits and concentrate on the 4-2 possibilities. The missing honors might be in the same hand or they might be in different hands? If they are both in the same hand, you need to finesse the opponent who has them.

BUT -- If the two honors are on the left, when you lead the 9 to finesse, the opponent will simply cover

and you will have no way to garner the needed tricks unless you are also fortunate enough to find a doubleton 8. If you play for the 2 honors on the right, you can lead a spade from the board toward your A9. If no honor appears, you can finesse the 9. If an honor appears, you will have no trouble winning 4 spade tricks. Since you have no idea who might have the 4 spades, you might as well play for the 2 honors on the right, since this is the distribution that gives you the best chance.

If the honors are split and someone has a doubleton honor, the same reasoning will lead you to the conclusion that it is best to lead toward the A9, planning to finesse the 9. Playing the A followed by the 9, essentially finessing the other way, is not as good, because of the missing 8 of spades.

Let's see. If spades are 4-2, the highest percentage under both scenarios above comes from leading toward the A9 and finessing the 9.

What if spades are 3-3. Leading toward the A9 and finessing is as good as anything as long as you play the two high honors on the next two leads of the suit.

The suggested line is probably not intuitively obvious. Did you figure this out?

Here is the actual complete hand.

		<u>North</u>			
		S	K10743		
		H	7		
		D	AQ62		
		C	KQ3		
	<u>West</u>			<u>East</u>	
S	J862			S	Q5
H	QJ982			H	106
D	7			D	J10953
C	1082			C	9764
		<u>South</u>			
		S	A9		
		H	AK543		
		D	K84		
		C	AJ54		

THE 'FIX' IS IN! DON'T BET ON THE HEART SLAM!

By Phil Sharpsteen

One aspect of bridge that we all enjoy is talking about the hand where we got an undeserved poor result because of an 'unusual' action by an opponent that worked out fine for them. Two interesting slam hands at the local club game fall into this category.

Hand 1

Bidding

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		2C	P
2NT*	P	3H	P
3S!	P	6C**	all pass!

Well, the 2NT bid showed an A and K or 3 K's (South knows which!). The 3S bid is not terrible but maybe a raise to 4H is better. (This would show heart support, but nothing extra from the 2NT bid). Then the 6C bid was intended as a choice of slams which North did not field and passed with a shrug! You can see that 6H will almost always go set (in fact in all but the above case the result was 6H down one). The actual best contract for matchpoints is 6S but 6C got a top this day (actually made seven as while cashing the A&K of hearts for tricks 11&12, the queen dropped!).

		<u>North</u>			<u>East</u>	
		S	AJ1098		S	xxx
		H	xxx		H	xxx
		D	Jxxx		D	Qxxx
		C	K		C	xxx
<u>West</u>		<u>South</u>				
S	xxx	S	KQ			
H	Qx	H	AKJxx			
D	Axxx	D	K			
C	xxxx	C	AQJxx			

Hand 2

		<u>North</u>	
		S Axxx	
		H x	
		D K10xx	
		C AQxx	
	<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>
S	Qxx		S Jxxx
H	J10xx		H 8
D	Axx		D xxxx
C	xxx		C Jxxx
		<u>South</u>	
		S Kx	
		H AKQ9xxx	
		D QJ	
		C Kx	

The bidding began with North who tried 1C. East passed. Now South started to reach for the 2H bid but suddenly realized that North probably was playing weak jump shifts so South bid only 1H.

West passed and North now bid 2S! South was beginning to think this was some other game being played until he looked down and saw that in the confusion, he had actually bid 1S by mistake!! Well, not to worry – if partner insists on spades he will continue to correct to NT. A RCB auction revealed a possible slam so South simply bid 6NT. Now consider poor West – diamonds and hearts have not been bid so he finally selected the 4th best heart!

Needless to say this allowed the impossible slam to make – the fix IS IN! And of course the field was all in 6H again going set one trick.

Vermont Summer Sectional

Cortina Inn, Killington, VT

July 11 – 13, 2014

Friday Morning Open Pairs

<u>MP</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>		<u>Pct</u>
4.67	1			Bruce Downing – Dan McGuire	66.23
3.50	2			Ellie Hanlon – Mary Savko	63.29
3.50	3	1	1	Paula Hallam – Jan Gisholt	60.94
2.63	4	2		Jay Friedenson – Mike Borushok	59.76
1.97	5	3		Claire Gardner – “Tink” Tysor	59.25
1.77	6	4	2	Sally Newton – John Newton	58.99

1.33	5	3	Patricia Eastman – Margaret Fanning	58.49
1.23	6	4	Mike McDonald– Tom Floyd	57.33
0.75		5	Ken Kaleita – Linda Kaleita	56.99
0.78		6	Ray Lopes – Susan Ransom	53.65

Friday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C		Pct
5.00	1			Vincent Grande – Bob Gorsey	67.64
3.75	2			Ellie Hanlon – Mary Savko	61.71
3.64	3	1		Jay Friedenson – Mike Borushok	61.29
2.11	4			Jean Seward – Janet Laudenslager	60.25
2.73	5	2	1	Shirley Perlman – Jack Adler	58.69
1.75	6			Patty DiVincenzo – Kathy Farrell	58.68
2.05		3	2	Patricia Eastman – Margaret Fanning	54.61
1.54		4	3	Linda Kaleita – Ken Kaleita	54.38
1.15		5	4	Sally Newton – John Newton	53.55
0.91		6		Albert Muggia – Rich Stevens	51.95
0.83			5	Susan Ransom – Ray Lopes	50.63

Saturday Morning Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C		Pct
5.00	1			Ellie Hanlon – Mary Savko	60.68
3.75	2			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	59.11
3.64	3	1		Mike Borushok – Jay Friedenson	58.81
2.73	4	2	1	John Maxwell – Richard Letizia	58.81
2.05	5	3	2	Israel Perlman – Shirley Perlman	58.26
1.19	6			Bob Gorsey – Vincent Grande	57.77
1.75		4	3	Mike McDonald – Tom Floyd	56.24
1.23		5	4	Ken Kaleita – Linda Kaleita	55.67
0.88		6	5	Gerrie Willis – Catherine Loew	55.12
0.65			6	Judie Muggia – Joanne Megna-Wallace	51.95

Saturday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C		Pct
4.83	1			Bob Donald – Diane Berger	64.42
3.62	2			Gary Spongberg – Lucy Spongberg	62.51
3.50	3	1	1	John Conova – Jessica White	61.07
2.42	4			Jerry DiVincenzo – Mike Farrell	60.72
1.69	5			Jean Seward – Janet Laudenslager	60.58

1.21	6			Patty DiVincenzo – Kathy Farrell	60.56
2.63		2	2	Israel Perlmann – Shirley Perlman	58.83
1.97		3		Peter Allen – Mike Rogers	57.87
1.68		4	3	Judith Ward – Linda Baker	56.08
1.18		5	4	Sally Newton – John Newton	53.51
0.84		6	5	Mark Adair – Vivienne Adair	52.15
0.59			6	Jane Verdrager – Rose Hanamoto	50.96

Sunday Swiss Teams

MP	A	B	C		Score
7.75	1			Patty DiVincenzo – Jerry DiVincenzo	133
				Mike Farrell – Kathy Farrell	
5.81	2			Ellie Hanlon – Mary Savko	98
				Bob Gorsey – Vincent Grande	
5.47	3/4	1		Bob Donald – Diane Berger	96
				Kerry Cotterell – Ellen Cotterell	
3.82	3/4			Rudy Polli – Frank Hacker	96
				Phil Sharpsteen – Fred Donald	
4.10	5	2		Judie Donald – Vivienne Adair	94
				Mark Adair – Layton Davis	
2.21	6			J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	93
				Wayne Hersey – Paul Reardon	
3.08		3		Jay Friedenson – Mike Borushok	89
				Jon Stokes – Ruth Stokes	
2.31		4		Claire Gardner – Susan Crane	88
				Denise Olson – Elaine Day	
1.82		5		Peter Allen – Michael Rogers	86
				Joseph Phillips – Lois Phillips	
3.00			1	“Tink” Tysor – Richard Tracy	80
				John Maxwell – Richard Letizia	
2.25			2	Jenny Bell - Mike Bell	78
				Jody Petterson - George Malek	
1.69			3	Mike McDonald – Tom Floyd	68
				Sally Newton – John Newton	

Vermonters On The Way Up

Many Vermonters have recently achieved new ranks in the ACBL masterpoint hierarchy. Well done!
Here is a list. My apologies to anyone I inadvertently omitted.

Junior Master:

Monique Cleland
Joan Mandala

Carol Goldsmith
Mark McKenzie

Cathy Long
Barbara Pick

Club Master:

Lisa Barrett
Lorna Jimerson
Robert Mays
Robert Pomeroy
Sue Wallingford

Casey Boyle-Eldridge
Fredricka Kimball
Mark McKenzie
Sandra Pomeroy

Warren Fuller
Susan Marchesani
Kurt Merrill
Gerald Ratzer

Sectional Master:

Linda Brenner
Sheila Sharp

Mary Ann Kaplinsky
Carol Slesar

Eric McCann
Robert Wilkes

Regional Master:

Deirdre Ellerson
Don Sharp

Margaret Fanning
Deborah Wight

Kim Likakis

NABC Master:

Kenneth Kaleita
Richard Tracy

Linda Kaleita

Kate Stewart

Life Master:

Karen Kristiansen

Edith Nichols

Bronze Life Master:

John Newton

Sally Newton

Edith Nichols

Silver Life Master:

Judy Frank

Alan Wertheimer

Gold Life Master:

Jackie Kimel

Emerald Life Master:

Frank Hacker

Marilyn Hacker Memorial Pairs

The 15th annual Marilyn Hacker Pairs took place on August 2 at the Burlington Bridge Academy in Williston, VT. The format was the usual 2 sessions of bridge with a lasagna dinner in the middle. Congratulations to this year's bridge winners Kathy Farrell and Patty DiVincenzo. There were 10 tables for bridge. Here are the overall standings.

MP	A	B	C		Score
4.25	1			Patty DiVincenzo – Kathy Farrell	264.19
3.19	2			Rudy Polli – Phil Sharpsteen	261.38
2.39	3			Mary Savko – Ellie Hanlon	246.44
1.79	4			Jerry DiVincenzo – Mike Farrell	237.50
1.42	5			June Dorion – Wayne Hersey	227.60
3.16	6	1	1	Gary Feingold – Kotze Toshev	223.63
2.37		2		Pat Nestork – Lynn Carew	223.27
1.78		3	2	Vivienne Adair – Mark Adair	221.24
1.33		4		Mike Borushok – Jay Friedenson	219.81
1.25		5	3	Sally Newton – John Newton	212.44

Vermont On The Tournament Trail

Many Vermonters have had success (10 or more points) at the Dallas and Las Vegas Nationals or at regional tournaments. Sorry for any inadvertent omissions.

Dallas Nationals:

Allan Graves	112.93	Andy Avery	38.13	Mary Savko	36.02
Ellie Hanlon	34.15	J Peter Tripp	19.36	Penny Lane	19.36
Courtney Nelson	14.05				

Las Vegas Nationals:

Allan Graves	315.35	Lucy Morini	37.96
--------------	--------	-------------	-------

Bermuda:

Allan Graves	42.88
--------------	-------

Hilton Head:

Penny Lane	26.76	J Peter Tripp	26.76
------------	-------	---------------	-------

Palmetto:

Allan Graves	80.99	Mary Savko	41.00	Ellie Hanlon	41.00
--------------	-------	------------	-------	--------------	-------

Frank Hacker 35.08

Alabama Gulf Coast:

Frank Reed 12.59

Chattanooga:

Allan Graves 96.67

Gatlinburg:

Wayne Hersey 31.10

Penny Lane 28.38

J Peter Tripp 28.38

Fort Lauderdale:

Allan Graves 72.21

Ellie Hanlon 13.52

Mary Savko 13.52

Kingston:

Lucy Morini 12.52

New York:

Mark Oettinger 10.97

Tampa:

Allan Graves 105.36

Saratoga Springs:

Phil Sharpsteen 26.83

Frank Hacker 26.83

Alan Wertheimer 20.84

Stan Rosenthal 20.84

Mary Savko 17.55

Ellie Hanlon 17.55

Pat Nestork 16.17

Lynn Carew 16.17

John Newton 15.77

Sally Newton 15.77

Courtney Nelson 13.81

Ruth Stokes 13.05

Jon Stokes 13.05

Jay Friedenson 13.05

Rhoda Chickering 12.51

Sandy Desilets 12.51

Nashua:

Jay Friedenson 15.90

Richard Tracy 12.24

Halifax:

Allan Graves 70.66

Ellie Hanlon 44.90

Mary Savko 44.90

Montreal:

Mary Savko 43.91

Ellie Hanlon 43.91

Gerald DiVincenzo 40.40