

TABLE TALK

A publication of the Vermont Bridge Association
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John Conova has become a mainstay of Vermont Bridge. In a very short time he has advanced to bronze life master and has become first VP of the VBA. John is about to apply his technical expertise to the improvement of the VBA web site.

Hello Vermont Bridge Players, my name is John Conova. I have recently been elected by the VBA membership to replace Dave Shaw as 1st Vice President. In this issue of Table Talk, I would like to share some brief anecdotes from my life story.

My wife Sharon and I live in Pawlet Vermont. For the past four years I have been Manager and Director of the Manchester Duplicate Bridge Club which currently holds their games at the Riley Rink. I graduated in 1966 from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute as an Aeronautical Engineer; and while at RPI, I became interested in Whist.

This interest eventually developed into Bridge while working at Lockheed California on

the SR-71 supersonic reconnaissance aircraft. After surviving two job layoffs and a general downsizing in Aerospace, I moved to Washington, D.C. Here I began a 33 year association with the Naval Air Systems Command working on many Naval Aircraft and Helicopter programs. My most enjoyable assignment involved the Marine Corp's AV-8B V/STOL aircraft (Jump Jet); which played a significant role in Desert Storm, supporting the Marine Ground Forces. This project also provided an opportunity for travel to Great Britain, Spain and Italy when the AV-8B became a joint international program with these countries. For those movie buffs you will remember Arnold Schwarzenegger flying the AV-8B in a scene from "True Lies".

I retired from the Federal Service in 2000 and now find the time to pursue my real passions like progressive politics, movies and my adorable Toy Poodles – Charlotte and Brandy.

Needless to say Bridge is also one of my chief passions, and I recently reached the rank of Bronze Life Master. While playing Duplicate in the Washington, D.C. area I got to play against a cadre of "up and coming" superstars of the Game: Mike Cappelletti, Sr., Steve Robinson and Kit Woolsey. And to quote from Brent Manley's The Tao of Bridge, I learned that "Bridge has a way of latching on to you, of becoming addictive. Part of the reason is that, while it's pretty easy to learn to play, it's impossible to master the game. When you take up bridge, you are guaranteed a lifetime challenge".

I also feel another quote from Manley's book is worth repeating: "Man is a social animal. Even the greatest of successes means little if it is not shared with others."

In closing I wish to thank all my partners (past and present), and opponents who have made those successes (and failures) at the table a pleasurable experience.

BRIDGE BOOKS FOR LIBRARIES

By Dave Shaw

A few years ago, the Vermont Bridge Association solicited a donation from Cabot Cheese in support of a then fledgling "Bridge At Schools" program. The program was well received by most school administrators, many of whom offered us participation in after school programs. But the kids showed little interest and, while we got a couple school programs off the ground, the program is now inactive although we'd love to hear of any interest from any VBA member or school.

The Cabot money not spent on Bridge At Schools was designated by the VBA Board to be used to purchase and place some bridge books in a half dozen libraries around the state. A survey of the books already on libraries' shelves was done. There were fewer than a total of 200 bridge books in all Vermont libraries and the second most popular book was Kantar's "Bridge for Dummies". So, the next step was to select a set of books for placement which was no mean task. There are thousands of bridge books out there and the ones that might be very popular with duplicate players might not also be popular with the general public.

So, I emailed Eddie Kantar of California who is well known as a two time world champion, a great and award winning bridge teacher, a prolific author, and as a raconteur and bridge humorist to solicit his assistance in selecting books that would be appealing to both constituencies. I explained what we planned to do with the books and the amount of money that remained from Cabot. Once the books were selected, I priced them at a bridge book dealer and learned what the price would be. Eddie offered to provide the books for 39% less and then offered to include six copies of another book at no charge. He also agreed to autograph all 36 books. He later explained that, once he learned that we were planning to donate these books to public libraries, he wanted to also make a contribution.

The books have been received; the labels to be placed inside the books are being sent to Eddie for his autograph and the books will be placed this month.

The Vermont Bridge Association would like to thank Eddie Kantar for his public spirited generosity and his promotion of bridge in Vermont.

President's Message

By Phil Sharpsteen

At the annual meeting of the Vermont Bridge Association on October 10, 2010 the Unit 175 officers for 2011 were elected. John Conova was elected first vice-president succeeding Dave Shaw who stepped down after several years of service. Dave intends to continue his volunteer service to the Unit in other ways (e.g. Table Talk distribution, promoting the Burlington Club Thursday night game, sectional improvement, etc). John has already taken on the task of improving the Unit website with the outside vendor approved by the Unit Board at the last October meeting. Several Unit members are now being trained to be able to update the website as needed most notably Frank Hacker who has Table Talk, Unit games and Vermont top 100 to update on a regular basis.

The other incumbent officers were reelected for 2011 so it is incumbent on them to continue their volunteer service to the Unit! They are Ron Plante, treasurer, June Silverman, secretary, Bonnie Clouser, second vice-president and Phil Sharpsteen, president. These officers and delegates from member clubs meet at three meetings during the year (Saturday at 1:30PM during the May, July and October Rutland sectional tournaments) to conduct the Unit's business and to strive to improve bridge in Vermont. Any of you who have suggestions in this regard can contact one of these individuals and have the matter discussed at one of these meetings. One key way each of you can contribute to bridge in Vermont is to invite someone you know to play duplicate with you at your local club. There is a lot of bridge played at senior centers around Vermont and some of these people could become interested in the duplicate form of the game.

We are planning a 2 session Unit game for Saturday June 11th at the Burlington Bridge club to attempt to revive the team championship for Unit 175. It will be discussed at the May Board meeting, but the thought is to call it the Vermont Memorial Team Championship. It will be a stratified event and the overall winner will be the Vermont team of 4 champions for the year. If this is successful, we could consider playing the New Hampshire team champions later in the year.

As an aside, I have been watching Fairpoint install another line in front of my house while typing this message. This would not be notable except that my road is VERY rural but more importantly, the key crew member is a HORSE used to pull the wrap pulley in the sections off-road where the truck is useless!

I hope you all had a great holiday season. Good luck to you in Vermont bridge in 2011 (except when you play me)!

Generosity

By Frank Hacker

I have a very generous nature. I am willing to give advice to anybody who asks and even to people who don't ask. They love me everywhere I go.

I have a few things to say, especially to new players, about everybody's favorite convention, the BLACKWOOD ace asking convention.

Here is a hand from a recent Montpelier club duplicate

S KQJxxxx H Kx D AJ C xx

In first seat, you open 1 spade. Partner bids 2 diamonds. What you bid now will depend on your bidding system, bidding style and partnership agreements. The choices seem to be 2S, 3S and 4S.

Whatever you choose, partner will probably bid 4NT (Blackwood). Many players nowadays play some Blackwood variation (commonly Roman Keycard Blackwood). Let's assume, however, that you're playing plain old mom and pop Blackwood. It doesn't really make much difference for the points I would like to make.

Anyway, you show your ace by responding 5 diamonds. Partner asks for kings with 5 NT.

Point 1: By using Blackwood, partner has stated that he thinks his side can make a slam and that he plans to play a slam if he is not off 2 cashing aces (or 2 key cards for those who use Roman Keycard Blackwood). In real life, the Blackwooder often gets cold feet and chickens out missing only one ace (or key card). That's not how the convention is supposed to work. If you find yourself wanting to back off, you probably shouldn't have used Blackwood in the first place.

Point 2: While one can imagine a circumstance where the 4NT bidder would wish to ask for kings to determine whether to play in a suit contract or to play in NT, Blackwood principles state that 5NT is logically a try for a grand slam. Therefore, 5NT implies possession of all 4 aces (or all key cards).

Point 3: Point 2 is important, because it permits responder to participate in the decision whether to bid a grand slam or not. The illustrative hand has a huge source of tricks. There are 7 spade tricks opposite partner's known ace. Partner has shown interest in a grand slam without knowing for certain about your 7 tricks. If you simply show your kings over 5NT, partner will not know about all your tricks (especially true if you bid only 2S over 2D). Partners 5NT bid, by showing all the aces (or key cards), invites your cooperation in the final decision. You should take the pressure off partner by bidding a grand slam yourself.

Which grand slam should you bid? You might do something complicated (like bidding 7C), but you should probably keep it simple and simply choose between 7S or 7NT. Our Actual auction was

Opener	Responder
1S	2D (game forcing)
4S	4NT (regular Blackwood)
5D	5NT
7NT	Pass

Maybe 7NT was a bit optimistic, since one can visualize a circumstance where 7S will make and 7NT might go down. Partner's hand was

S Axx H Axx D KQ1098 C Ax

As you can see, there were 15 top tricks.

Perrin Pairs

The annual 2 session Perrin Pairs unit game took place on December 4, 2010 in the new quarters of the Burlington Bridge Club. The format was 2 sessions of bridge with a wonderful ham dinner between. Congratulations to winners Fred Donald and Gerald DiVincenzo. There were 9.5 tables. Here are the final overall standings.

MP	A	B	C	Names	
4.25	1			Fred Donald – Gerald DiVincenzo	271.25
3.19	2			Judith Donald – Patricia DiVincenzo	249.00
3.16	3	1		William Schiring – Nick Ecker Racz	246.75
1.79	4			Rudolph Polli – Frank Hacker	243.63
2.37	5	2	1	Ed Schirmer – Frank Reed	237.06
1.78	6	3		Ruth Stokes – Jon Stokes	234.00
1.33		4		Tom Osmer – Bryant Jones	222.06
2.05		5		Bill Nestork – Dave Perrin	210.06
1.67			2	June Silverman – Ron Silverman	203.25
1.25			3	Frances Wager – Luisa Chernyshov	198.63

Trivia Questions

Jim Thomas has provided me (your editor) with a collection of 15 years of previous Table Talks. This enabled me to indulge my passion for useless information.

1. Who was president of the Vermont Bridge Association (VBA) in 1991?
2. Who was VBA president in 1993?
3. Who was Table Talk editor in 1988?
4. Who won the Tiernan Trophy in 1992?

Answers: 1. Barbara Fitzgerald 2. Richard Unger
 3. Lynn Carew 4. Mike Farrell

Mike won with 55.73 points, just edging out both Jerry DiVincenzo and Cliff Gordon. Tournaments were larger in the 1990s than they are now. There were no Friday afternoon games as there are now, but there were still a lot more points available

Lists

The year end issue is usually the list issue. Later in this issue, we list the VBA top 100 and Table Talk patrons. We also provide now a list of featured personalities. It is our custom now to start each Table Talk issue with a featured personality. I'm not sure when we started this feature, but the earliest featured personality I could find was July of 1991. The following list shows the issue date and personality and just to jog our memories, the Table Talk editor at the time. You will notice date gaps. The inclusion of a featured personality did not always occur with as great regularity as it does now.

Issue Date	Personality	Editor
July 1991	Crip Polli	M and F Hacker
Jan 1992	Fred Hamilton	“
July 1992	Ruth Stokes	“
Jan 1993	Richard Unger	Ed and Ruth Brass
Oct 1993	John Vogeler	“
Apr 1994	James Jeffords	“
July 1994	Eileen Fleiter	“
Oct 1994	Anne Hoffman	“
Jan 1995	Jim Thomas	“
Apr 1995	Gerow Carlson	“
July 1995	Mary Savko	“
Oct 1995	Dave Shaw	“
Jan 1996	Chris Acker	“
Apr 1996	Mike Farrell	“
July 1996	Frank Hacker	“
Oct 1996	Jackie Kimel	“
Jan 1997	June Dorion	“
Apr 1997	Gerald DiVincenzo	“
July 1997	Ed Brass	Scott Aborn
Oct 1997	Andy Avery	“
Jan 1998	Jean Seward	“

Apr 1998	Michael Arnowitt	“
July 1998	Bob Edwards	“
Oct 1998	Paul Cohen	“
Apr 1999	Mary Azarian	“
July 1999	Paul Reardon	“
Oct 1999	Lois Mailloux	“
Apr 2000	Courtney Nelson	“
July 2000	Roy Green	“
Oct 2000	Bryant Jones	Sybil Ferguson
Jan 2001	Stan Rosenthal	“
Apr 2001	Chucry Sahyoun	“
Jul 2001	Edsel Hughes	“
Oct 2001	Dave Perrin	“
Jan 2002	Bill Becker	Kate Stewart
June 2002	Scott Aborn (in memoriam)	Michael Arnowitt
Oct 2003	Wayne Hersey	Michael Arnowitt
Apr 2004	Jonna Robinson	Frank Hacker
June 2004	Betsey Clewley	“
Sep 2004	Wayne Hersey	“
Jan 2005	Linda Baker and Judith Ward	“
June 2005	Jesse Stalker	“
Sep 2005	Larry Rawls	“
Jan 2006	Lynn Carew	“
Apr 2006	Rudy Polli	“
Sep 2006	Rutland Newcomers	“
Jan 2007	Mary Tierney	“
June 2007	Don Sondergeld	“
Sep 2007	Bob Smith	“
Jan 2008	Martha and Richard Gazley	“
June 2008	Dave Marshall	“
Sep 2008	New Jersey women	“
Jan 2009	Bill and Pat Nestork	“
June 2009	Jean-Guy and Connie Beliveau	“
Sep 2009	Ed Buttolph and Harry Smith	“
Jan 2010	Don Campbell	“
June 2010	Phil Sharpsteen	“
Sep 2010	Mary Savko	“

Marilyn Hacker

Marilyn Hacker was one of Vermont’s top players for many years. Unfortunately she passed away in 1995 at a very young age from the effects of scleroderma. Marilyn was a frequent contributor to Table Talk. We are reprinting here one of her articles. This article appeared in the July 1989 issue (editor, Lynn Carew).

Opening Leads or Why Did I Do That

By Marilyn Hacker

Our opening lead is the strongest blow we can strike against the enemy declarer. There is an old, but true, adage: **“There are no blind opening leads, only deaf ones.”**

I’m not going to present you with those tired old tables listing the leads from best to worst – only some stories of funny, but true, leads.

Back in 1935 there was a much-publicized bridge match between two married couples. This involved some of the bridge greats of the day: Ely and Josephine Culbertson and Hal and Dorothy Sims. The following hand is from that match.

		<u>Dorothy</u>			
		S	KJ3		
		H	7		
		D	AQ74		
		C	KQ942		
				<u>Ely</u>	
		S	Q1076		
		H	105		
		D	J10532		
		C	63		
				<u>Hal</u>	
		S	982		
		H	AKQJ96		
		D	8		
		C	J85		
				<u>Josephine</u>	
S	A54				
H	8432				
D	K96				
C	A107				

Bidding;	West	North	East	South
	P	1C	P	1H
	P	2D	P	3H
	P	3N	P	4H
	All pass			

Jo Culbertson, who darn well knew what she was doing, led the 5 of spades. She hoped to see a broken spade combination in dummy. Sims, expecting a normal opening lead, played small from dummy. Ely won the 10 of spades and returned a heart. Declarer drew trump and led a club. Jo won the ace and laid the 4 of spades on the table.

Sims was a suspicious and wily opponent: but would anyone dare underlead the ace twice? He played the jack and Ely won the queen. He returned a spade to Jo’s ace and the hand was set. The next hand is one I defended in the Montpelier duplicate. I wanted to include this because it was such fun. I was a little hesitant about describing it, because it shows me doing something right. Partner has assured me this is such a rare event that no one would take it amiss.

I was West with the following hand:

S Q52
 H J832
 D K9
 C 9763

Bidding:	North	East	South	West
	1D	P	1S	P
	3D	P	3H	P
	3S	P	4N	P
	5H	P	6S	All Pass

Look at the West hand only and pick your opening lead. No peeking ahead.

I made what I felt was the clear-cut lead of the 9 of diamonds. Here is the whole hand.

		<u>North</u>			
		S	K83		
		H	A7		
		D	AQ10763		
		C	K5		
	<u>West</u>			<u>East</u>	
S	Q52			S	10
H	J832			H	Q1065
D	K9			D	J42
C	9763			C	Q10842
		<u>South</u>			
		S	AJ9764		
		H	K94		
		D	85		
		C	AJ		

You can see what a problem this is for declarer. If the 9 of diamonds is a singleton and she plays the queen, my partner will win the king and give me a ruff – down right off the bat.

So declarer won the ace and subsequently lost a trump trick and the king of diamonds --- down 1 on a hand that surely would have made on any other lead. Boy, was she mad!

And now for a lesson in proprieties: After making a lead like that, do not start to snicker until you are out of the opponents' ear-shot.

Vermont Bridge Association Top 100

December 2010

List based on 12/13 VBA membership roster (paid-up members only)

1.	Allan Graves	14,257	51.	Jon Stokes	1,005
2.	Frank Hacker	5,843	52.	Louise Acker	970
3.	Phil Sharpsteen	3,834	53.	Ed Schirmer	892
4.	Wayne Hersey	3,637	54.	Gene Kazlow	881
5.	Michael Farrell	3,485	55.	Gary Feingold	877
6.	Gerald DiVincenzo	3,399	56.	Bonnie Clouser	840
7.	Kathleen Farrell	3,369	57.	Paul Cohen	834
8.	Don Sondergeld	3,340	58.	Nancy Lolli	776
9.	Peter Tripp	3,299	59.	Irene Vignoe	757
10.	June Dorion	3,279	60.	Robert Silverman	753
11.	Fred Donald	3,255	61.	C. Kirk Osterland	753
12.	Courtney Nelson	3,041	62.	Mary Granger	752
13.	Patricia DiVincenzo	2,672	63.	Mitchell Kontoff	743
14.	Dave Shaw	2,542	64.	Stuart Osborn	739
15.	Michael Engel	2,478	65.	Eileen Fleiter	720
16.	Clifford Gordon	2,474	66.	Elizabeth Clewley	704
17.	Rudolph Polli	2,473	67.	Alan Wertheimer	674
18.	Lynn Carew	2,255	68.	Patricia Earle	624
19.	Jackie Kimel	2,238	69.	Elizabeth von Riesenfelder	608
20.	Judith Donald	2,236	70.	Ed Brass	599
21.	Robert Smith	2,213	71.	Carlos Galvan	591
22.	Pierce Smith	2,211	72.	Raymond Johnson	577
23.	Penny Lane	2,142	73.	Ronald Silverman	557
24.	Bryant Jones	1,836	74.	Joyce Stone	552
25.	Patricia Nestork	1,816	75.	Kotze Toshev	548
26.	Peter Bouyea	1,770	76.	Richard Gazley	541
27.	Nicholas Ecker Racz	1,745	77.	Robert Chiabrandy	530
28.	Andy Avery	1,694	78.	Martha Gazley	527
29.	Jack Rihn	1,659	79.	John Conova	527
30.	Stanley Rosenthal	1,581	80.	Connie Beliveau	525
31.	Barbara Fitzgerald	1,539	81.	June Silverman	522
32.	Jay Friedenson	1,477	82.	Joy Lewis	521
33.	Jesse Stalker	1,448	83.	Lucy Morini	508
34.	Gerow Carlson	1,443	84.	George Malek	477
35.	Marcia Wilkins	1,413	85.	Marsha Anstey	449
36.	Linda Bouyea	1,404	86.	Lois Mailloux	448
37.	Ruth Stokes	1,355	87.	Layton Davis	429
38.	Paul Reardon	1,336	88.	Grant Pealer	426
39.	C. Edward Midgley	1,211	89.	Virginia Christy	424
40.	Steve Dunham	1,197	90.	Josephine Machera	409
41.	Mary Tierney	1,187	91.	Richard Unger	408
42.	Chris Acker	1,182	92.	Anne Farrell	401
43.	Rigmor Shawcross	1,124	93.	Betty Stanley	396
44.	Barbara Philpet	1,108	94.	John A. Newton	388
45.	William Schiring	1,088	95.	James Chase	385
46.	Don Campbell	1,077	96.	Barbara Unger	374
47.	William Sibley	1,064	97.	Byron Quinn	371
48.	David Perrin	1,044	98.	Rhoda Chickering	370
49.	James Daigle	1,016	99.	Barbara MacDonald	369
50.	Norma Jakominich	1,010	100.	Jeannie Clermont	360

Director (Please)

By Jim Thomas

As a director, I have found that 3 problems cause significant player discontent. They are slow play, hesitations and misinformation. I have tried to address the last 2 before, but will try again. Remember that club directors will often overlook things that tournament directors will enforce.

Slow Play: If you are a habitually slow player, be aware that there are new rules governing your conduct at the bridge table. At the Orlando Nationals, the ACBL Board of Directors approved unanimously a motion for some slow play rule changes based on references to slow play in the Laws of Duplicate Bridge – 103-49: Slow Play Regulations. These new, stricter rules are effective immediately. This is the language of the motion:

“When a pair has fallen behind, it is incumbent on them to make up the time lost as quickly as possible whether at fault or not. All players are expected to make a concerted effort to catch up when they have fallen behind, regardless of the reason for their lateness.

“In the absence of compelling evidence to the contrary, the director should presume that a pair finishing a round late by more than 2 or 3 minutes on more than one occasion during a session is responsible for the lateness. There is a strong expectation that the director will penalize such a pair. The size of the penalty will tend to increase for subsequent instances of slow play and for chronic or egregious slow play. While warnings typically will be given before a penalty is assessed, failure to do so in no way limits the director’s authority to issue a penalty.

“An appeal of an action taken by a TD with regard to time may be taken to the director in charge of the tournament and no further.”

As you can see the ACBL Board believes that it needs to solve the slow play problem. The Board has also eliminated the committee appeal of the penalty.

Hesitations and misinformation both fall under the law concerning unauthorized information. There was a recent discussion on the tournament directors’ website about the failure to alert or what was called Self-Beneficial Alerts

One issue that causes players confusion is what to do when your partner fails to alert. Your partner’s failure to alert is unauthorized information for you. There are 2 possibilities when he/she fails to alert. One is that he/she forgot the system and the other is that he/she remembered the system but forgot to alert. For your bidding, you must assume the second. If he/she makes a bid that should be alerted in the system, you must alert it.

The following paragraph is from the Alert Procedure web page.

“FAILURE TO ALERT OR ANNOUNCE: If partner fails to alert or announce, a player may not make any indication during the auction. Showing surprise or discomfort may awaken partner to the error and would be a violation of the law. In addition, a player may not make allowances for partner’s error. The auction must continue as if partner had acted properly.”

A good example of this occurs with the Jacoby 2NT bid. Partner should alert it. If he doesn't, you should still alert his response just as if he/she had alerted the 2NT bid. (If you don't, the opponents may be entitled to a modified score.) If partner did forget the system, he/she may not use your alert to alter his/her bidding. Your alert is unauthorized information for partner. (Consider this to be like bidding behind screens. In that situation you do not know if partner alerted or what he/she described as your system.)

Notification of the opponents of the failure to alert: If the bidding did not clarify the situation about the alert, notification depends on whether or not you are the declaring side. If your side is declaring, you should notify the opponents BEFORE the opening lead. The director should be called, as it is possible that the bidding will be reopened. If you are the defending side, notification should occur AFTER the hand is played. If the declaring side believes the failure to alert has injured them, they should call the director. The failure to alert may not justify score adjustment. You are still required to play good bridge. If the bidding seems to be impossible in a contested auction, you have to protect yourself by asking during the auction. As above, the question cannot "wake" the opponent.

As for **your** hesitation, the hesitation is unauthorized information for your partner. Your partner may not take an action that might have been suggested by your hesitation. The test for the appropriateness of partner's action is **NOT** whether the majority of players would take the action, but whether there were reasonable alternatives.

“Danger, Will Robinson”

By Frank Hacker

How many of you remember the late 1960s TV show “Lost in Space?” One of its heroes was a little boy named Will Robinson. Another character in the show was a robot that watched over Will and warned him of impending danger. When trouble approached the robot would utter the phrase, “danger, Will Robinson.”

There are many dangers at the bridge table. How nice it would be to have someone warn us whenever danger was imminent! Most experienced players are familiar with the concept of keeping the dangerous hand out of the lead. Newer players may, however, find the following hands interesting and informative.

On the first hand you, South, are declarer in 3NT. West leads the 6 of hearts, you play low from dummy. East inserts the 10 and you win in hand with the queen. What now

Hand 1:

North

S	A32
H	87
D	KQ5
C	KJ953

South

S	K65
H	KQ2
D	AJ3
C	A1087

You have 1 heart trick in and 5 other top tricks outside the club suite. You can make your contract if you can score at least 3 club tricks. You have 9 clubs, but the usual rule about finessing for the queen, “8 ever, 9 never” doesn’t apply here. If East has 3 clubs to the queen, he will win the 3rd club and lead a heart through your remaining heart honor. Curtains!! East is the danger hand. You must keep him off lead. At trick 2 lead a club to the king and then finesse East for the queen of clubs. If West wins a club trick, he cannot hurt you.

On the second hand you, South, are declarer in 4 spades after the opponents overcall and raise clubs. West leads the club king, which you trump in dummy. Plan the play

Hand 2:

North

S J1076
H K54
D KQJ632
C void

South

S AQ9532
H 873
D A9
C Q10

The problem suit is hearts. Either opponent could have the ace. Fortunately, West led a club, not a heart. Should West regain the lead, he certainly will lead a heart. If East has the ace, down you go. You must do what you can to keep West off lead. Ordinarily with 10 trumps, you would finesse (wouldn’t you?). On this hand, you should play the ace first, protecting against the singleton king in West’s hand. Should East prove to have the king, the finesse would have worked, but you will still make your contract. After cashing the spade ace, you should play diamond, hoping to pitch hearts from your hand. If West has the protected spade king and a singleton diamond and East has the ace of hearts, you’ll go down. Sometimes virtue has to be its own reward.

Finally, you, South, are declarer in 3NT. West leads the 5 of hearts. East’s 10 forces your jack. With two hands under your belt, I’m sure you’ll get this right

Hand 3:

North

S AJ5
H 86
D K742
C AJ93

South

S Q1094
H KJ2
D AQJ10
C K10

You have 1 heart trick and 4 tricks in diamonds. A successful play in spades or clubs will see you home. If East gains the lead, his heart return will probably sink you. The hand is cold, however. Simply lead a diamond to the king and finesse the 10 of clubs. Even if the finesse loses, you are safe, with a trick in spades and hearts, 4 tricks in diamonds and 3 in clubs. If West wins the club queen and returns a spade, rise with the ace and lead dummy's clubs from the top down.

In a nutshell, identify the dangerous opponent and do your darndest to keep him off lead.

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:

Anne Beck	Mindy Bloom	Colleen Fitzgerald
John Runnette	Eleanor Stephenson	Susan Stuermer

Club Master:

Huguette McA’Nulty Black	Matthew Fleming	Claire Genser
John Lampron	Marjorie Maas	Gail Meier
Kaspar Meier	Donald Taylor	Barbara Van Vliet
Carol Wilkes	Jackie Zierler	

Sectional Master: Joseph Morein

Regional Master: Josephine Machera

Bronze Life Master: John Conova John Nelson

Silver Life Master:

Jim Daigle	Norma Jakominich	Jon Stokes
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VERMONT FALL SECTIONAL RESULTS

**Rutland, VT
October 29-31, 2010**

Friday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
4.17	1			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	62.66
3.13	2	1		S Michael Sharp – Nancy Sharp	60.26
2.35	3			Jackie Kimel – David Shaw	59.62
2.30	4	2	1	Michael McDonald – Tom Floyd	58.33
1.46	5			Gerald DiVincenzo – Michael Farrell	54.01

1.72	6	3		Rich Stevens – Albert Muggia	53.37
1.24		4/5	2/3	Carol Weaver – Carolyn Accardi	51.76
1.24		4/5	2/3	Richard Unger – Barbara Unger	51.76
0.73		6		Patricia Nestork – Lynn Carew	51.60
0.79			4	Judith Ward – Linda Baker	50.32

Friday Evening Open Pairs

<u>MP</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>PCT</u>
4.17	1	1		Stanley Rosenthal – James Chase	65.54
3.13	2			J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	64.26
2.35	3			Rena Lieberman – Melvin Marcus	62.98
2.41	4	2		Bonnie Clouser – Bryant Jones	59.78
1.32	5			Frank Hacker – Phil Sharpsteen	58.65
1.81	6/7	3		Jay Friedenson – Alan Wertheimer	57.69
0.87	6/7			Norma Jakominich – Courtney Nelson	57.69
2.24		4	1	Sally Newton – John Newton	55.61
1.68		5	2	Ron Silverman – June Silverman	54.97
1.26		6	3	John Conova – Karen Kristiansen	53.37
0.95			4	Carol Weaver – Carolyn Accardi	52.06
0.71			5	John Nelson – Linda Nelson	51.76

Saturday Morning Open Pairs

<u>MP</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>PCT</u>
5.17	1			Gerald DiVincenzo – Michael Farrell	67.47
3.88	2			Patricia DiVincenzo – Kathleen Farrell	63.62
3.21	3	1		Jon Stokes – Ruth Stokes	63.46
2.41	4	2	1	John Conova – Karen Kristiansen	60.26
1.81	5	3		Rich Stevens – Reid Fleming	59.62
1.23	6			J Alfred Letourneau – A Lorraine Letourneau	58.97
1.53		4		Patricia Nestork – Lynn Carew	56.89
1.07		5		Jay Friedenson – Alan Wertheimer	53.53
0.76		6		S Michael Sharp – Nancy Sharp	50.64
1.50			2	Peter Murzda – Lawrence Young	48.24
1.13			3	Firm Weaver – Charles Mantia	48.08
0.84			4	Sally Newton – John Newton	47.76
0.63			5	Michael McDonald – Tom Floyd	45.67

Saturday Morning 299er Pairs

<u>MP</u>				<u>Names</u>	<u>PCT</u>
1.41		1		Raymond Lopes – Susan Ransom	63.19
1.06		2		Carol Slesar – Margie Berger	54.86
0.79		3		Margaret Winslow – Lyndal Winslow	51.39

Saturday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
3.67	1			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	64.29
2.75	2	1	1	Peter Murzda – Lawrence Young	61.42
2.06	3			Gerald DiVincenzo – Michael Farrell	59.71
1.97	4	2		S Michael Sharp – Nancy Sharp	58.67
1.28	5			Patricia DiVincenzo – Kathleen Farrell	58.63
1.47	6	3		Lynn Carew – Patricia Nestork	58.22
1.24		4	2	John Conova – Karen Kristiansen	53.30
0.93		5	3	John Newton – Sally Newton	52.24

Sunday Open Swiss Teams

MP	A	B	C	Names	SCORE
5.50	1			Michael Farrell – Kathleen Farrell Gerald DiVincenzo – Patricia DiVincenzo	117
4.13	2			Rudolph Polli – Fred Donald Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	106
3.09	3			Andy Avery – Paul Cohen Melvin Marcus – Rena Lieberman	83
1.91	4/6			Wayne Hersey – June Dorion J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	73
3.45	4/6	1/2		Bruce Downing – Claire Gardner Mark Conner – Peter Valiante	73
3.45	4/6	1/2		Jon Stokes – Ruth Stokes Alan Wertheimer – Jay Friedenson	73
2.22		3		Joseph Phillips – Lois Phillips S Michael Sharp – Nancy Sharp	67
2.43			1	Reid Fleming – Judie Muggia Albert Muggia – Rich Stevens	58

President's Cup

The Vermont Bridge Association annual meeting took place on October 3 at the Burlington Bridge Club at their new headquarters in Williston. The festivities included 2 sessions of bridge and a dynamite turkey dinner. Congratulations to winners Jackie Kimel and Dave Shaw, also to runners up June Dorion and Wayne Hersey who could only manage second this time. The overall winners were

MP	A	B	C	Names	.
5.53	1			Jackie Kimel – Dave Shaw	445.18
4.15	2			Wayne Hersey – June Dorion	443.86
3.11	3			Kathy Farrell – Patty DiVincenzo	429.36
2.48	4			Mike Farrell – Jerry DiVincenzo	423.18
4.09	5	1		Jon Stokes – Ruth Stokes	396.64
3.07	6	2		Bill Schiring – Nick Ecker Racz	394.43
2.30		3		Jay Friedenson – Alan Wertheimer	387.29
1.73		4		Lynn Carew – Pat Nestork	386.11
3.01		5	1	Patricia Earle – Gladys Rocheleau	381.18
2.26		6	2	Richard Clark – Gordon Johnson	377.04
1.69			3	Jenny Bell – Michael Bell	376.57
1.36			4	Ed Schirmer – Frank Reed	367.39
1.00			5	Eric Stone – Joyce Stone	367.04

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 final results for 2010. Frequent winner Phil Sharpsteen has won again. A tip of the cap to Kathy and Mike Farrell who fell just a little bit short despite having played in only 18 of the 24 possible sessions. Here are the top 10. Apologies to anyone I inadvertently omitted.

1.	Phil Sharpsteen	45.96	6.	Frank Hacker	36.88
2.	Kathy Farrell	43.12	7.	John Newton	29.82
3.	Michael Farrell	42.23	7.	Sally Newton	29.82
4.	Patricia DiVincenzo	42.09	9.	June Dorion	25.11
5.	Jerry DiVincenzo	41.10	10.	Karen Kristiansen	24.82

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. Congratulations to 2010 winner Karen Kristiansen, who improved on last year's second place finish. Congratulations also to runner-up, John Conova. Karen's frequent partner, who made it a tight race. Here are the top 10. Apologies to anyone I inadvertently omitted.

1.	Karen Kristiansen	24.82	6.	Ross Lieb-Lappen	4.65
2.	John Conova	23.02	7.	Neil Raphel	4.60
3.	Patricia Williams	5.39	8.	Linda Baker	4.59
4.	Mark Adair	4.91	8.	Judith Ward	4.59
4.	Vivienne Adair	4.91	10.	Linda Nelson	3.75

Vermont On The Tournament Trail

Many Vermonters have done well (10 points or more) recently at the Orlando 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

Orlando Nationals:

Allan Graves	155.78	Penny Lane	50.47
J Peter Tripp	50.47	Courtney Nelson	42.69
Ellie Hanlon	21.51	Mary Savko	21.51
Rhoda Chickering	17.78		

Naples

Don Sondergeld	24.41	Dave Shaw	17.47
Peter Bouyea	17.47		

Lancaster:

Penny Lane	29.76	Peter Tripp	29.77
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Daytona:

Allan Graves	138.88	Ellie Hanlon	26.07
Mary Savko	26.07		

Danbury:

Mary Savko	23.48	Ellie Hanlon	23.48
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Waterbury:

Linda Nelson	21.90	John Nelson	21.90
Bonnie Clouser	13.99	Bry Jones	13.99

Special Congratulations to **Linda and John Nelson** who won the big Gold Rush pair event in Waterbury and who won the most overall Gold Rush master points at the tournament.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Jan. 7-9	Keohane Individual Regional, Boston Marriott Newton, Newton, MA
Feb 15 -21	NE KO Team Regional, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cromwell, CT
March 10-20	Spring Nationals, Galt House (host hotel), Louisville, KY
April 1-3	Vermont Sugar Time Sectional, Burlington Bridge Club, Williston, VT (see flyer this issue)
April 11 – 17	Smoky Mountain Regional, Convention Center, Gatlinburg TN
April 27 - May 1	Cape Cod Senior Regional, The Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis
May 27-29	Vermont Spring Sectional, Holiday Inn, Rutland, VT (see flyer this issue)

TABLE TALK PATRONS FOR 2011

Thanks to all of you who support Table Talk. Here is a complete list of patrons. If you are a patron and we have inadvertently omitted your name, please let us know. We shall be sure to acknowledge your support in our next issue.

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Furlong, Nancy & Mike	Rocheleau, Gladys	
Gisholt, Jan	Rosenthal, Stan	
Godnick, Jean	Sahyoun, Renee	

Vermont Sugar-time Sectional
Burlington Bridge Club
156 Commerce Street (802) 651-0700
Williston, VT 05403

April 1 - 3, 2011

Sanction # S1104081

Schedule of events:

Friday April 1st:

1:30 PM Open Pairs, Stratified
Under 100 Pairs (an opportunity to win silver points)
7:30 PM Open Pairs, Stratified
Under 100 Pairs

Saturday April 2nd:

10:00 PM Open Pairs, Stratified
Under 100 Pairs

3:00 PM Open Pairs, Stratified
Under 100 Pairs

Sunday April 3rd:

10:30 AM 1st Session Open Swiss Teams, Stratified
Under 200 Swiss Teams, Stratified
TBA 2nd Session Open Swiss Teams, Stratified

Open Stratifications: A: 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
(Stratifications may be adjusted by Director based on attendance.)

Price per session: \$9 - \$1 additional for Non-ACBL members
Vermont State Law - No smoking in public buildings and or the playing area
Director (&MC): Dave Marshall

Suggested Accommodations:

Double Tree Inn, 1117 Williston Rd. (800) 222-8733
Hawthorn Suites, 401 Dorset St. (802) 860-1212
University Inn, I-89, Exit 14E, (800) 808-4656
Windjammer Best Western 1076 Williston Rd. (800) 371-1125

Chairperson: Phil Sharpsteen (802) 899-2080
Partnerships: Phil Sharpsteen (802) 899-2080

VERMONT SPRING SECTIONAL
 Holiday Inn
 476 US Route 7 South, Rutland, Vermont, 05701

May 27 - 29, 2011

Sanction # S1105099

Schedule of events:

Friday May 27th

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

Saturday May 28th

10:00 AM Stratified Open Pairs
 10:00 AM Stratified Newcomer Pairs
 3:00 PM Stratified Open Pairs (please note change to stratified open pairs
 formerly stratiflighted with A separate from B,C,D)

Sunday May 29th

10:30 AM 1st session Stratified Open Swiss Teams
 10:30 AM 0 to 300 Swiss Teams (1 session only)
 TBA 2nd Session Stratified Open Swiss Teams

Open Stratifications: A: 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
 (Stratifications may be adjusted by Director based on attendance.)

Price per session: \$9 - \$1 additional for Non-ACBL members
 Vermont State Law - No smoking in public buildings and or the playing area
 Director (&MC): Dave Marshall

Partnerships: Judi Ward (802) 287-5756

Tournament Committee: Judi Ward (802) 287-5756 & Linda Baker (802) 773-9412

**Holiday Inn Discounted Group Rate --- Please Call 1-800-462-4810 for Reservations
 by May 13, 2011**

1 Night Stay

	<u>1 person</u>	<u>2 people</u>	
Double Bed	\$99	\$115	Includes hot breakfast buffet and one \$10 food voucher per person at Paynter's Restaurant
King Bed	\$105	\$125	

2 Night Stay

	<u>1 person</u>	<u>2 people</u>	
Double Bed	\$179	\$209	Includes 2 hot breakfast buffets and one \$10 food voucher per person at Paynter's Restaurant
King Bed	\$199	\$229	

A publication of the Vermont Bridge Association
Frank A. Hacker, Editor
310 Tremont St.
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.