

TABLE TALK

A publication of the Vermont Bridge Association

Editor: Frank Hacker

September 2009

email: frhac@charter.net



Harry Smith and Ed Buttolph are regulars at the Rutland Bridge Club

Edward Buttolph (Ed) and Harold (Harry) Smith probably have a way to go before becoming the oldest pair playing club Bridge on a regular basis. Ed (90) and Harry (77) are sure they have a few years left where they can still be competitive at the club level. They would be interested to which pair can lay claim to be the oldest pair playing on a regular basis. They are regular players at the Rutland Bridge club though Ed slips off to Florida for the winter where he plays at various clubs. While Ed is away Harry tends to hibernate with a stack of books. They only play a few local tournaments and their favorite game is the annual meeting in Burlington where there is good competition in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere and of course, the great food.

They both have about 200 points, have no interest in becoming Life Master, and are quite content to collect a couple of points each month. While they respect the game and their opponents, they feel the game should be fun. One of the reasons their partnership stays

together is that they don't get upset when one of them makes a mistake because they know that in a few hands the shoe will be on the other foot.

Ed's first involvement in bridge was in 1929 when he played with his folks on the family farm in Shoreham. They started using a book by Eli Culbertson and later used Goren. His army years, 1941 to 1946 did not give him much time for bridge. He did manage to play once with a group of French school teachers while in Gafra during a break in the North Africa campaign. Luckily he won because he found they were playing for money and he had none. From 1946 to 1979 he just played party bridge before joining the Middlebury bridge club. He also belongs to a large bridge club in Florida where he has taught a class for many years. He feels lucky to have had many good partners in Maurice Langevin, Floyd Butterfield, Irv Stiefel, Jean-Guy Beliveau, John Foster, Harry Proctor and Harold Smith.

Harry was introduced to the game, in a social basis, in 1957, shortly after serving 4 years as a navigator in the RAF. A year later he married his wife Shelagh and immigrated to Canada. Another year and they immigrated to the US where Harry played lunch time bridge for most of the 5 years they were in NJ. After a couple of moves they landed in Springfield Vermont where Harry joined the Springfield Bridge club. To show how much he had learned during the lunchtime games he spent 2 years amassing the grand total of 1 master point. Springfield was quite a large club in 1966 and the competition must have been keen because he didn't think he was that bad. They moved to Monkton to start a horse farm and between that and traveling the world for his job Harry didn't get back to regular bridge until he joined the Middlebury club run by John Quinn. He played with Irv Stiefel for a couple of years before joining up with Ed.

One of Ed's favorite stories is about when he was the dealer, had 22 points and passed. The hand was passed out and he got a top board because everybody else in that situation bid and was set. Harry's favorite hand was playing with Irv Stiefel against a couple of life masters in Burlington. Irv sitting W bid 2S, doubled by N. Harry sitting E with no points and a void in spades redoubled. S had a good hand with good spades so he passed. W passed and N now thinking that E had the good hand pulled to 3D. S now confused passed and we set them because E had all the other diamonds. At a recent tournament in Rutland, Harry miscounted the aces and landed in 7NT missing the ace of spades. Jean-Guy, on lead and having the ace led another card and 7 NT was made. Jean-Guy's partner from Quebec, obviously a good sport, thought that it was funny. Wonder how many bridge players would laugh when their partner failed to lead an ace against 7NT.

FIRST ANNUAL BILL BECKER MEMORIAL GAME

On Thursday August 6, the Rutland Bridge Club held a one session unit game in memory of Bill Becker, long time Rutland bridge stalwart, who died earlier this year at age 95. Here are the overall results of that game

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT	.
2.83	1			June Dorion – Wayne Hersey	67.30	
2.12	2	1		Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	66.20	
1.59	3	2	1	Kate Stewart – Mina Kent	63.63	
1.18	4	3	2	Ray Lopes – Susan Ransom	58.77	
0.99	5			Robert Smith – Jean Seward	58.16	
0.86	6	4	3	Martha St. Onge – Catherine Loew	54.89	
0.65		5	4	Linda Baker – Judith Ward	54.83	



Mary Kenny (right) of the Cobleigh Public Library in Lyndonville accepts a gift of 10 bridge books from the Vermont Bridge Association. Jeannie Clermont (left) represents the VBA

TWO QUEENS

by Frank Hacker

There is a well known anecdote about an expert player of yesteryear who had a reputation for never misguessing a queen. His friends decided to play a trick on him by giving both opponents the queen of a critical suit. The finesse was certain to lose in both directions.

Midway through the hand the expert stopped to think. “Something’s wrong,” he said, “Both these guys have the queen.”

The hand below is not a misprint. Both players have the queen of hearts. I never guess a queen right anyway, so I might just as well play with two.

		S	42		
		H	AJ76		
		D	A52		
		C	A1063		
S	97			S	QJ1086
H	Q82			H	Q1054
D	J96			D	K4
C	Q9742			C	J5
		S	AK53		
		H	K3		
		D	Q10763		
		C	K8		

With the exception of the duplicated queens, this hand took place at the recent Labor Day Regional in Nashua. I had the South hand. The bidding was

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1D	P	1H	1S
1N	P	3N	all pass

South ducked the opening lead of the 9 of spades and won the second round of spades. A diamond to the ace and a diamond off the board put East on lead. Declarer won the spade continuation, pitching a club from dummy. Declarer now cashed 2 top clubs followed by 2 top diamonds, pitching a low heart on the second diamond. All of this left the following position with South on lead

		S			
		H	AJ7		
		D			
		C	10		
S				S	8
H	Q82			H	Q105
D				D	
C	Q			C	
		S	5		
		H	K3		
		D	7		
		C			

South led his final diamond, embarrassing both opponents. West had to pitch a low heart to keep the Q of clubs. Declarer pitched dummy's now useless club. East had to pitch a heart to save his 8 of spades. Having forced heart discards, declarer was now able to take the last 3 tricks in the heart suit. Sometimes it doesn't matter how many queens you have.

Two notes: East knew that pitching a heart wasn't going to work, so he threw his 8 of spades, hoping declarer wasn't paying close attention. The last 3 tricks were actually the 5 of spades and 2 heart winners.

We won an IMP on this board (hooray!), but we lost the match anyway. Sometimes virtue has to be its own reward.

OUR SECTIONAL TOURNAMENTS

by Dave Shaw

At the VBA board meeting in July, a committee was formed to review all aspects of our sectional tournaments. While our membership is at its highest in memory, our four sectionals hosted a total of 410 tables over the last 12 months, down from 750 tables in most of the 1990's and early 2000's. There's no question that Cortina Inn's failure has hurt us over the past year or so, but we are in a great place for the 2009 fall tournament and for 2010 and beyond. The Holiday Inn in Rutland is a better location for our games than Cortina in many key areas. The playing space is better (well lighted, functional heat and air conditioning, more space) and the HI has more parking, a good restaurant, many other restaurants nearby, more modern rooms with upgrades coming (flat screen TVs, new mattresses, etc.) and more.

The Sectional Review Committee has begun its work and will report to the VBA Board at the October sectional. The members are Linda Baker, Wayne Hersey, Bob Smith and Dave Shaw. Please make suggestions about our sectionals to them. Consider such areas as the times of games, the game's format (stratified pairs, Swiss teams, KO teams, IMP pairs, stratiflighted events, midnight games, Saturday morning games, novice events, etc), refreshments and other hospitality, pricing, prizes, guest speakers, anything that's on your mind. You may also email me at dshaw42@gmail.com.

If you have played in sectionals in other parts of New England or upstate New York, you know that Vermont sectionals are among the best in all that territory. Please come out and enjoy the Fall Sectional at the end of October and please give us your ideas and suggestions.

BURLINGTON BRIDGE ACADEMY

For 10 years the Burlington Bridge Academy has been at 7 Green Tree Place in South Burlington. The original roster of owners was: Mike and Kathy Farrell, Jackie and John Kimel, Louise and Chris Acker, Phil Sharpsteen and Barbara Fitzgerald. The ownership

group ten years later consists of the Farrells, the Kimels and Phil Sharpsteen. Their second five year lease ends at the end of September and the current ownership group will not be signing a new lease. After 10 years, the Farrells and the Kimels wish to retire from bridge club management. We all owe the ownership group a tremendous debt of gratitude for their contribution to Vermont bridge and the sacrifices they have made. Mike has directed several special events and Kathy has done an immense amount of food. In many instances they would have preferred to play and have somebody else do the work.

NOT TO WORRY

The bridge club will remain open in the same location for at least the next year. The club will be not for profit (intentionally this time) and will be run by a steering committee consisting of Phil Sharpsteen (signer of the lease), Pat Nestork, Marty Gazley, Bonnie Clouser, June Silverman and Ruth Stokes.

Thanks to their commitment to bridge, Burlington area players will continue to enjoy their duplicate bridge in quarters dedicated to bridge.

VERMONT SUMMER SECTIONAL RESULTS

Castleton, VT

July 10-12, 2009

Friday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
3.67	1			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	65.74
2.75	2			Judith Donald – Fred Donald	62.73
2.06	3			Phyllis Bassen – Jim Thomas	57.64
1.34	4/6			Melvin Marcus – Vincent Grande	57.41
2.28	4/6	1	1	John Conova – Jan Gisholt	57.41
1.34	4/6			Pierce Smith – Stewart Mackeigan	57.41
1.71		2		Abe Brown – Jean Brown	53.01
1.28		3		William Schiring – Bonnie Clouser	52.55
1.07		4		Barbara Fitzgerald – Polly Schoning	51.16
1.14		5/6	2	Robert Sullivan – Mary Sullivan	47.92
0.63		5/6		Ed Midgley – Laura Midgley	47.92
0.86			3	Karen Kristiansen – Sheila Long	47.69

Friday Evening Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
3.50	1			Melvin Marcus – Vincent Grande	69.13
2.63	2			Mary Savko – Ellie Hanlon	60.40
1.97	3			Gerald DiVincenzo – Michael Farrell	59.36
2.01	4	1	1	John Conova – Jan Gisholt	58.34
1.11	5			Judith Donald – Fred Donald	56.88
0.83	6			Wayne Hersey – June Dorion	55.22
1.51		2		Abe Brown – Jean Brown	54.70

1.13	3		Ed Midgley – Laura Midgley	49.62
1.06	4	2	John Newton – Sally Newton	47.93

Saturday Morning Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
4.50	1			Melvin Marcus – Vincent Grande	67.05
3.38	2			Patricia DiVincenzo – Kathy Farrell	62.98
2.53	3			Penny Lane – Peter Tripp	62.14
2.25	4			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	60.46
1.58	5			Wayne Hersey – June Dorion	60.27
1.07	6			Phyllis Bassen – James Thomas	59.21
2.68		1		William Schiring – Bonnie Clouser	57.30
2.01		2	1	Richard Bottelli– Ann Bottelli	54.17
1.51		3	2	Sally Newton – John Newton	53.59
1.13		4	3	Lee Corbett – Ross Lieb-Lappen	53.49
0.85		5	4	Sheila Long – Karen Kristiansen	52.68
0.64		6	5	Mark Adair – Vivienne Adair	51.03

Saturday Afternoon Flight A Pairs

MP			Names	PCT
4.17	1		Gerald DiVincenzo – Michael Farrell	62.50
3.13	2		Robert Donald – Diane Berger	56.77
2.25	3		Judith Donald – Fred Donald	55.21
1.76	4		Wayne Hersey – June Dorion	54.69

Saturday Afternoon Flight B/C/D Pairs

MP	B	C	D	Names	PCT
2.54	1			Ed Midgley – Laura Midgley	63.69
2.00	2	1	1	Lee Corbett – Ross Lieb-Lappen	59.52
1.43	3			William Schiring – Bonnie Clouser	57.14
0.94	4/5			Abe Brown – Jean Brown	56.85
1.50	4/5	2	2	Judith Ward – Linda Baker	56.85
1.13		3	3	Mark Adair – Vivienne Adair	54.46
0.84		4	4	Sheila Long – Karen Kristiansen	52.38
0.63		5		Ron Silverman – June Silverman	50.60

Sunday Open Swiss Teams

MP	A	B	C	Names	SCORE
7.00	1			Diane Burger – Robert Donald	117
				Pierce Smith – Stewart Mackeigan	
4.60	2/3			Frank Hacker – Rudolph Polli	
				Phil Sharpsteen – Fred Donald	107
4.60	2/3			Gerald DiVincenzo – Patricia DiVincenzo	

4.02	4	1	1	Michael Farrell – Kathy Farrell	107
				Sally Newton – John Newton	
				Sheila Long – Karen Kristiansen	94
2.33	5			Mary Savko – Ellie Hanlon	
				Mel Marcus – Vincent Grande	93
3.02		2		Vivienne Adair – Mark Adair	
				Layton Davis – Gerow Carlson	91
2.26		3		Mark Conner – Peter Valiante	
				Denise Olson – Daniel Button	89
1.95		4	2	Anne Moore – Caroline Tassey	
				Mildred Hill – Richard Ross	81

Vermont On The Tournament Trail

Many Vermonters have done well (10 points or more) recently at the Washington 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>Washington Nationals:</u>	James Gordon	49.67	Ellie Hanlon	13.65
	Allan Graves	48.19	Jay Friedenson	12.53
	Mary Savko	13.65		
<u>Nashua:</u>	Courtney Nelson	22.20	Mary Savko	18.55
	Penny Lane	19.97	Phil Sharpsteen	17.18
	Peter Tripp	19.97	Frank Hacker	17.18
	Ellie Hanlon	18.55		
<u>Saratoga Springs:</u>	Mary Savko	51.01	Penny Lane	28.03
	Ellie Hanlon	51.01	Peter Tripp	28.03
	Ruth Stokes	28.98	Pat Nestork	23.33
	Jay Friedenson	28.98	Lynn Carew	23.33
	June Dorion	28.58	Frank Hacker	11.90
	Wayne Hersey	28.58	Phil Sharpsteen	11.90
<u>Sturbridge:</u>	Wayne Hersey	13.48	Penny Lane	13.27
	June Dorion	13.48	Courtney Nelson	10.34
	Peter Tripp	13.27		
<u>Montreal:</u>	Ellie Hanlon	42.64	Don Sondergeld	17.22
	Mary Savko	42.64		
<u>Hunt Valley:</u>	Allan Graves	146.19	Peter Tripp	36.01
	Penny Lane	36.01		
<u>Fredericton:</u>	Mary Savko	63.69	Ellie Hanlon	63.69

Oliver Wendell Holmes Sectional

The Oliver Wendell Holmes Sectional, sponsored by our friends from the New Hampshire unit was held for the second consecutive year in White River Junction, VT on August 29-30. The tournament was a success, supported well by players from both NH and VT. The events were a 2 session pair game on August 29 and a 2 session Swiss Team Game on August 30. Here are the results.

Saturday Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
7.25	1			J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	63.08
5.44	2			Ellie Hanlon – Mary Savko	62.52
4.08	3			Wayne Hersey – Frank Hacker	62.32
3.50	4			Geoff Phipps – Ron Mak	60.73
4.82	5	1		Thomas Kurtz – Agnes Kurtz	57.06
3.62	6	2	1	John Conova – Jan Gisholt	56.37
2.71		3		Rhoda St. Laurent – Paul St. Laurent	56.25
2.47		4		Jeannie Clermont – Polly Schoning	55.00
2.12		5		Roger Crean – Paul Pratt	54.66
2.44		6	2	Peter Murzda – Lawrence Young	52.83
1.83			3	Sandy Desilets – Rhoda Chickering	51.94
1.37			4	Robert Springer – Daniel Button	51.67
1.08			5	Susan Tester – G. Ruffner	51.50
0.93			6	Linda Courtemanche – Phyllis Benoit	49.45

Sunday Open Swiss Teams

MP	A	B	C	Names	SCORE
7.50	1			Gerald DiVincenzo – David Shaw	112
				Mary Savko – Ellie Hanlon	
4.93	2/3			Tom MacBeth – Lloyd Arvedon	92
				Joseph Cappannelli – Vincent Grande	
4.93	2/3			Wayne Burt – Daniel McGuire	92
				Ronald Mak – Geoffrey Phipps	
4.62	4	1		Jesse Stalker – Byron Quinn	84
				Art Young – Carlos Galvan	
2.50	5			Frank Hacker – Fred Donald	83
				Judith Donald – Jackie Kimel	
2.01	6/7			J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	82
				Pierce Smith – Stewart Mackeigan	
2.01	6/7			David Rock – Sonja Smith	82
				Bruce Downing – Mark Conner	
3.27		2		George Wolford – Phyllis Wolford	80
				Marcia Wilkins – Jim Daigle	

2.60	3		Craig Helm – Thomas Ferguson	
			Roger Crean – Peter Valiante	73
2.28	4/5	.2/3	Stephen King - Susan King	
			Roger Cooley – Anne Cooley	65
2.28	4/5	.2/3	Jonathan Crane - Susan Crane	
			Lawrence Rawls – John Conova	65

DIRECTOR (please) by Jim Thomas

CLAIMS

Claims are an important part of a duplicate bridge game. Good claims speed play and make the game more enjoyable. We have all been frustrated when we are forced to discard while declarer has all the tricks, but plays them one at a time. Claiming when the long suit runs in no trump or when you have all good trumps left in your hand is good bridge. Players of all levels should claim.

The Laws of Duplicate Bridge address claims in multiple places. Laws 68 through 72 deal specifically with claims. If you have access to a law book, you should review these laws. The law 74B4 states that a player should refrain from prolonging play unnecessarily for the purpose of disconcerting an opponent. I have been accused by better players of doing that when I have failed to claim. As declarer, if an opponent has ever conceded the rest of the tricks or said that you have everything but an outstanding ace or trump, then you were guilty of not claiming when you could have.

There are many misconceptions about claims. A claim may not take from you that you could not lose under any circumstance (such as an outstanding high trump). Declarer or defender may not claim a trick he is not entitled to. And you are **not** entitled to play it out.

How to Claim

When you claim you should state your line of play. If there is an outstanding trump, be sure to mention it and how you're going to deal with it. If you're going to finesse, mention it. If you are defending, be sure to let declarer finish his claim before you interrupt him or dispute his claim. If both sides agree upon the result, even if it is not as originally stated, record the agreed upon result. If there is any question about the validity of the claim, and/or the two sides do not agree, ***call the director***. In all cases, play ceases.

Some things to remember

1. When you state the board is good, that means that all your tricks are equal and the order of play does not matter. (It is presumed that you are running suits from the top. We will not make you play low from AKx.)

2. If you do not state that there is an outstanding trump, the presumption is that you did not know it or that you forgot about it. Opponents will be allowed to take a trick with it if possible.
3. The director shall not accept from a claimer any successful line of play not embraced in the original clarification statement if there is an alternative line of play that would be less successful. That means you cannot take a finesse you did not state you would take unless an opponent has already shown out in the suit.
4. The laws refer to lines of play that may be careless or inferior, but not irrational.
5. If a defender attempts to concede a trick and his partner immediately objects, no concession has occurred.

There is no part of the game that gives rise to more violations of Law than claims. Law 68D is the most often ignored. This law states that when a claim is made, all play ceases. It is not permissible to **“play it out.”** This most commonly happens in club games. In addition to law 68D, the fact that someone objects to a claim means there may be unauthorized information and that must be sorted out by the director.

The director’s job is to determine the facts. I first listen to the player who has called the director. Then I usually ask the declarer to restate his claim exactly as he originally stated it. One of the most common problems I see occurs when the defenders have interrupted the declarer before he finishes his claim. This is critical when there is an outstanding trump, because the defenders have awakened declarer to the problem and there was no way to tell how he was going to finish his original claim.

The fact that there is an outstanding trump does not mean that the defense is entitled to another trick. I have seen several hands where the declarer forgot about an outstanding trump, but no line of play (including careless) would allow the defenders to win a trick with it.

Agreement with a claim or concession may be withdrawn within the correction period established under law 79C, if a player had agreed to the loss of trick his side has in fact won, or if a player has agreed to the loss of a trick that his side would likely have won had play continued. The board is rescored with such trick awarded to his side.

In summary, claims are an important part of the game. Do not be afraid to claim. State your line clearly. In any dispute as to outcome or facts, please call the director. If you want further clarification, please contact me or your friendly editor.

RECORD BREAKING BRIDGE CROWD SUPPORTS SOUTHERN VERMONT ARTS CENTER

On Monday, July 27, 178 players shuffled, dealt and bid their way to raising \$11,300 for the Southern Vermont Art Center in Manchester, VT. The event, held in tribute to Irene Hunter, a friend and member of Manchester and the Mountains Duplicate Bridge and

generous supporter of the Southern Vermont Art Center, involved 34 ½ duplicate bridge tables or 138 players, and 40 more players who participated in rubber bridge.

The bridge game, under the direction of Robert H. Smith, ran without a flaw. ACBL tournament director, Jim Thomas, assisted in the running of the game, as did Ed Midgley. Patti Smith calculated scores for registering with the American Contract Bridge League. After the game, players were served wine and cheese while the scores were tallied and posted

The overall winners were Laura and Ed Midgley with a 69% game. The section winners were

Section A

NS	Gisela Bret – Carl Beresin	67%
EW	Laura Midgley – Ed Midgley	69%

Section B

NS	Gloria Leshinsky – Sid Leshinsky	66%
EW	Gay Squire – Roger Squire	64%

Section C

NS	Shirley Valk – Sally Brophy	61%
EW	Ted Brophy – Fred Fitchey	63%

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. With 3 tournaments down, we have only the October tournament in front of us. Four Aborn trophy contenders are in the overall top 10. Frequent trophy winner Phil Sharpsteen has built a substantial lead. Here are the top 10. Apologies to anyone I inadvertently omitted.

1.	Phil Sharpsteen	36.28	6.	Sheila Long	22.24
2.	June Dorion	27.52	7.	Mike Farrell	19.87
2.	Wayne Hersey	27.52	7.	Jerry DiVincenzo	19.87
4.	Pierce Smith	23.13	9.	Karen Kristiansen	19.53
5.	Frank Hacker	22.98	10.	Sally Newton	18.46
			10.	John Newton	18.46

DOUBLE SUIT COUNT

by Frank Hacker

Sometimes, especially early in a hand it is impossible to know declarer's precise distribution. Here is a hand where the defender can determine the total number of cards declarer has in 2 side suits without knowing the precise number of cards in each one. I have written on this subject before, but some of you have not been paying attention, so I'll try again

		S	J62		
		H	98642		
		D	KQ3		
		C	Q5		
S	953			S	7
H	K53			H	void
D	A985			D	J10742
C	J92			C	AK108753
		S	AKQ1084		
		H	AQJ107		
		D	6		
		C	4		

After a competitive auction, South became declarer at 5 spades. This was clearly 1 trick too high, 2 if the opponents defended perfectly. At the table, however, the defenders led 2 rounds of clubs. Declarer trumped the second club, drew 3 rounds of trump and led a diamond toward dummy. West wished to avoid setting up the 2 diamonds in dummy and ducked the ace with the obvious catastrophic result.

Here is where the double suit county comes in. West cannot know for sure how many hearts and how many diamonds declarer has, but West should know that declarer has 6 cards in the two suits combined. West can simply win the diamond ace and continue a diamond. In due time declarer, depending on his heart holding, will have to lose at least one heart trick (unless declarer actually has 5 or more diamonds, in which case there is nothing to be done).

No need to panic!! The double suit count almost guarantees success.

Here is a second hand with the same theme. After another competitive auction, South winds up as declarer in 4S. (Don't write in to complain that you would have bid and made 5H)

		S	Q1065		
		H	Q5		
		D	52		
		C	AKQJ10		
S	A72			S	4
H	A10762			H	KJ983
D	AQ			D	109876
C	765			C	98
		S	KJ983		
		H	4		
		D	KJ43		
		C	432		

You lead the heart ace, followed by a second heart. Partner plays the king and declarer ruffs. Declarer leads a spade toward dummy, playing the queen, partner following with a low spade. On the second spade, partner shows out and you win the ace. What now? Dummy has 5 very threatening clubs. Should you cave in to the pressure and lead the ace and another diamond, hoping that partner has the king, so that you can take 2 diamond tricks before declarer throws his diamonds away on dummy's clubs.

Here's where the double suit count comes in. Declarer has 5 spades and 1 heart. You may not know how many clubs or diamonds declarer has, but you know that the count for the 2 suits is 7. Declarer cannot get rid of all 7 cards on only five clubs. Sit and wait. You're sure to get your 2 diamond tricks.

Let us suppose, on the other hand, that partner shows out on declarer's first trump lead. When you win the ace of trumps at trick 4, you had better try the ace of diamonds and another diamond. Partner may not have the king, but you cannot just sit and wait. Declarer has 6 spades and 1 heart, so the double suit count for clubs and diamonds is 6. If you permit it, declarer will throw all of his side suit cards save 1 on dummy's clubs. The full hand is

		S	Q1065		
		H	Q5		
		D	52		
		C	AKQJ10		
S	A72			S	void
H	A10762			H	KJ983
D	AQ			D	K9876
C	765			C	982
		S	KJ9843		
		H	4		
		D	J1043		
		C	43		

I have never seen anybody else write about the double suit count. I don't know why. It's certainly a very useful concept.

THE PRESIDENT'S CUP

by Dave Shaw

By now, you should have received the mailing about the annual meeting of the VBA and the two session stratified pair event that accompanies that meeting. The VBA subsidizes the bridge and turkey dinner to encourage attendance. This year, two sessions of bridge and the meal (plus any amusement you might glean from the business meeting) costs VBA members \$14 or \$28 for you and your VBA member partner. The VBA subsidy is also \$14 (\$28 per pair). Hand records are available at the end of each session.

Please use the information included with the mailing to make your reservation for this October 4th event. I'm told that the ride to Burlington can be quite colorful at this time of year. The President's Cup will be held at Burlington Bridge Academy, 7 Green Tree Place in South Burlington beginning at 10:30 AM. Snacks are available throughout the day beginning at 10:00 AM. We hope to see you there.

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:

Elisabeth Baker
Kathy Fox

Patricia Eastman
Deanna Gilman

Patricia Forbes
Eileen Mann

Club Master:

Linda Aiken
Millie Larson
Israel Perlman
Dorothy Williams

Mark Benson
Kim Likakis
George Phillips
Barbara Wright

Jon Eldridge
Sue Moritz
Julie Simpson

Sectional Master:

William Callnan
Susan Ransom
Mary Sullivan

Diane Maher
Marilyn Rice
Carolyn Tassey

Israel Perlman
Gay Squire
Peachy Wojcik

Regional Master:

Mark Adair
Linda Nelson
Donald Wallace

Vivienne Adair
Thomas Osmer

Wendy Baurmeister
Richard Ross

Life Master

Rhoda Chickering

Bronze Life Master:

Kotze Toshev

Elizabeth vonRiesenfelder

Silver Life Master:

Barbara Philpet

William Schiring

ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game

On Wednesday, September 9, the ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game too place at the Burlington Bridge Academy. There were 17 tables broken into two sections. In each section in each direction the section top winner received 1 gold point as part of their masterpoint award. The field consisted almost entirely of partnerships consisting of 1 life master and 1 player still needing gold points. In addition to the section top awards, there were overall awards for the best score in each direction. Top on a board was 100 (based on predetermined awards provided by the board travelers) with average for the entire session at 1,200. The results are listed below with the gold point winners all in capitals.

NORTH-SOUTH

MP	A	B	C	Names	.
3.17	1			RONALD PLANTE – FRANK HACKER	1,379
2.38	2	1	1	Dorothy Carpenter – Jon Stokes	1,321
1.78	3			HAROLD LEITENBERG – KATHY FARRELL	1,311
1.34	4			Duncan Robb – Fred Donald	1,309
1.70	5	2	2	Carol Slesar – Gary Feingold	1,235
1.28		3		Barbara Stokes – Ruth Stokes	1,203
1.07		4	3	Lee Corbett – Ross Lieb-Lappen	1,189
0.72		5		Sheila Barton – Pat Nestork	1,186

EAST-WEST

MP	A	B	C	Names	.
3.17	1			MARC MONHEIMER – PHIL SHARPSTEEN	1,503
2.38	2	1		ERIC STONE – PATRICIA DIVINCENZO	1,465
1.78	3	2		Pat Watson – Barbara Fitzgerald	1,439
1.34	4	3		Grant Pealer – Stan Rosenthal	1,354
1.00	5	4		Richard Ross – Lynn Carew	1,342
1.87		5	1	Kay Fay – Teri Carpenter	1,300
1.40			2	Bill Hume – Phyllis Siegel	1,252
1.05			3	Sandi Gurowski – Ron Silverman	1,244

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. With 3 tournaments down, we have only the October tournament in front of us. Surprise! Surprise! Three time winners, Sally and John Newton, are not in the lead. That honor belongs to their frequent teammate, Sheila Long. Here are the top 10. Apologies to anyone I inadvertently omitted.

1.	Sheila Long	22.24	6.	Ross Lieb-Lappen	10.98
1.	Karen Kristiansen	19.53	7.	Lee Corbett	9.68
3.	Sally Newton	18.46	8.	Judith Ward	7.05
3.	John Newton	18.46	9.	Richard Clark	7.02
5.	John Conova	16.48	10.	Arthur Aiken	6.38
			10.	Linda Aiken	6.38

Marilyn Hacker Memorial Pairs

The tenth annual Marilyn Hacker Memorial Pairs took place on Saturday, August 22 at the Burlington Bridge Academy in South Burlington, VT. The format was 2 sessions of bridge with the customary Bove's Restaurant lasagna dinner between sessions. Your Table Talk editor would like to thank the owners of the Burlington Bridge Academy, as well as Tom Osmer who desserted up a storm, for their efforts in making this day as festive as possible. There were 13.5 tables for bridge. Last year's winners were DiVincenzo and Farrell (the men). This year it was the women. That's what I call sharing the wealth. Judie and Fred Donald were second two years in a row. The overall winners were

MP	A	B	C	Names	.
5.10	1			Patricia DiVincenzo – Kathleen Farrell	366.27
3.83	2			Judith Donald – Fred Donald, Jr.	363.78
2.87	3			Gerald DiVincenzo – David Shaw	353.91

3.83	4	1	Gary Feingold – Jay Friedenson	349.69
1.70	5		Thomas Smith – Frank Hacker	341.54
1.46	6		Anne Hoffman – Marty Caley	339.76
2.87		2 1	Layton Davis – Bill Wade	338.79
2.22		3 2	Barbara Unger – Richard Unger	332.63
1.62		4	Lynn Carew – Pat Nestork	325.07
1.28		5	Sandra Hammer – Courtney Nelson	323.41
1.34		6 3	Sally Holt – Polly Schoning	322.49
1.00		4	Karen Kristiansen – Sheila Long	314.58

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Oct. 4	VBA annual meeting and President's Pairs, Burlington Bridge Academy, 10:30
Oct. 6-12	Regional, Ottawa, Crowne Plaza Hotel
Oct.12-18	Regional, Danbury CT, Danbury Plaza Hotel and Conference Center
Oct. 30 – Nov. 1	Vermont Fall Sectional, Rutland, Holiday Inn
Nov. 4 – 8	Regional, Waterbury CT, Holiday Inn
Nov. 26 – Dec 6	Fall Nationals, San Diego CA, Manchester Grand Hyatt
Dec ??	Perrin Pairs, TBA

2009 VERMONT FALL SECTIONAL

October 30 – November 1, 2009

Holiday Inn, Rutland, VT

Sanction: S0911056

Friday Oct. 30th

1:30PM **Open Pairs, Stratified**
 Newcomer Pairs, Stratified
7:30PM **Open Pairs, Stratified**
 Newcomer Pairs, Stratified
 1st Session K-O Teams

Saturday Oct. 31th

10:00AM **Open Pairs, Stratified**
 Newcomer Pairs, Stratified
 K-O Teams, Semifinals
3:00PM **Open Pairs, Stratified**
 Newcomer Pairs, Stratified
 K-O Teams, Finals

Sunday Nov. 1st

10:30AM **1st Session Open Swiss Teams, Stratified**
 0 to 300 Swiss Teams, 1 session
~3:30PM **2nd Session Open Swiss Teams, Stratified**

Open Stratifications: **A: 1500+ B: 500 to 1500 C: 0 to 500**
Newcomer Stratifications: **A: 50 to 100 B: 20 to 50 C: 0 to 20**
(Stratifications may be adjusted by Director based on attendance.)

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

Director: 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
:

	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 1 \$10 food voucher per person (only 1 whether you stay one or 2 nights)

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.