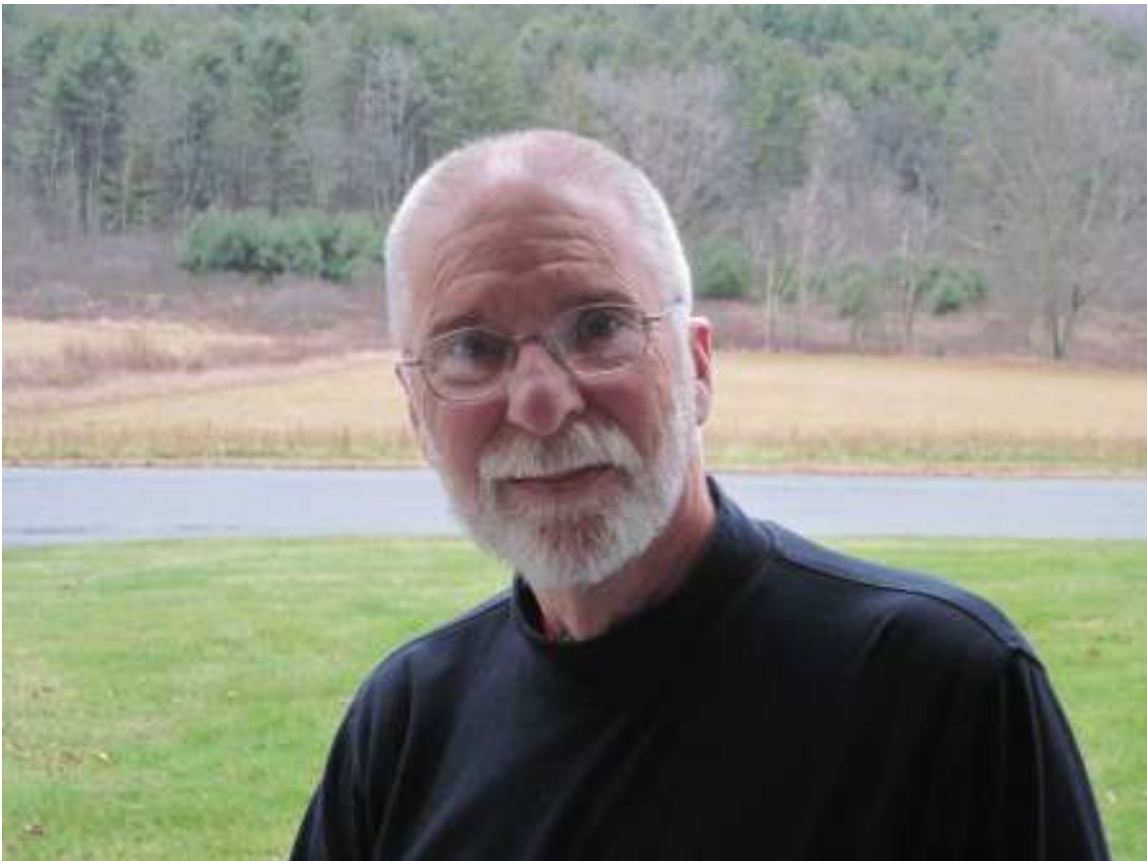


TABLE TALK

A publication of the Vermont Bridge Association
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Don Campbell of Hebron, NY is a member of our Vermont Unit 175. He is a silver life master and attends most of the Vermont 175 sectional tournaments

Don Campbell is the only member of the Vermont Bridge Association who lives in New York. The Post Office address is Salem, but his home is in the little town of Hebron – one general store, two firehouses, three churches, and a bunch of cows and horses. Sounds a lot like Vermont! He lives in a farmhouse built in the 1830's, which has been in the Campbell family since 1908. Don and his wife Betty have three daughters and four grandchildren, all in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, so they make frequent trips in that direction.

Don plays regularly at the games in Manchester (about a half hour ride), during the winter months in Rutland (an hour away), and at several sectional and regional tournaments. His regular partners include June Dorion year-round, Norma Jakominich during the ski season and for

occasional off-season tournaments, with lots of sporadic partners as well. He's been an ACBL member since 1989, and recently passed the 1000-point mark to become a Silver Life Master. His favorite all-time hand is the time he declared a five-club contract in a 4-2 fit (the bidding has mercifully been forgotten), and made it!

Don grew up on Long Island, with summers in Hebron working on local dairy farms. He attended college majoring in animal science, and went on to grad school in reproductive physiology. His career was spent as a physiologist and toxicologist in the animal health pharmaceutical industry, working in New Jersey, Indiana, and Illinois. He retired back to New York in 1998.

Interests for Don other than bridge include refereeing high school soccer (33 years and counting) and umpiring high school softball (11 years), reading mystery stories, and puttering around doing woodworking and furniture refinishing. He recently completed six years as a member of a church committee overseeing those preparing to serve as ministers, a highly rewarding yet sometimes frustrating endeavor.

As far as offering advice to newer bridge players, Don suggests playing as often as possible, with as many different partners as you can find. He especially recommends asking more experienced players to pair up for a game or two, and would be happy if some of the folks he plays against would take him up on that suggestion.

SPECIAL EFFORT TO BRING NEWER PLAYERS BACK TO SECTIONAL TOURNAMENTS

By Dave Shaw

In the past, we have reserved a section for newer players at our sectional tournaments. In recent years, there have not been enough newer players coming out to have a special section. We hope to change that by creating a welcoming environment for players with, say, fewer than 100 master points. Here are some things we might offer.

1. A five to ten minute talk followed by a Q & A beginning 30 minutes before each game.
2. Experienced players volunteering to take your questions about a particular hand after the game will have red "ASK ME ABOUT A HAND" badges.
3. Games stratified into flights at, say, 0-20, 20-50 and 50 to 100 master points so you'll always compete against others at your skill level.
4. Two mentors available during the game. These mentors would not play, but would coach you.
5. 20 to 22 boards games in the intermediate/novice (I/N) section (the other sections would play 26 or 27 boards).
6. We're still thinking about what else we might do and would welcome your ideas. Please send those to me at dshaw42@gmail.com.

To get newer players to come out, we've asked each club to put together one, two or three tables of newer players and urge them to come to the sectionals. Please ask your

club manager about sectionals, silver points, transportation, accommodations, on what days of a sectional games are available, etc.

Our sectionals are held in April, May, July and October of each year. The last three are held at the Holiday Inn in Rutland and the April sectional is held in South Burlington at the Academy of Bridge. They are three day tournaments (Friday thru Sunday) offering two games each day in the afternoon and evening or in late morning and mid afternoon.

The primary responsibility of the Vermont Bridge Association is to promote the game of bridge in Vermont. We want to help newer players succeed, improve, have fun and mingle socially with other players.

Editorial Note: Table Talk is very pleased to have a new contributor, Mark Adair. Mark and Vivienne Adair are relatively new players. Mark's article is well written and very entertaining. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have.

A Late Summer's Tale

By Mark Adair

It is the fate of those who flounder in the lower circles of life to be rather driven by the fear of mortification than attracted by the hope of glory; exposed to disgrace without the expectation of triumph; humiliated by reproach, or punished for futility, where every success would be without applause, and every effort without reward. *Give yourself a pat on the back if you recognize the famous 18th century model for this tumid paraphrase (answer at the end).*

Among these lowly mortals are the lightweights of the Bridge world, the puny wits sparring for trivial successes, invisible to humankind, while just a few feet away, A-level Titans collide with thunder, lightning and convulsions of the Earth. We, the Adairs, are members of that smaller and sorry race. We never expect to win but, six years into our Bridge career, don't expect the shame of last place either, and whenever we lose touch with reality, even dream of master points.

We long ago perceived that the chains of ineptitude which entangled us, instead of growing weaker as we played more, were instead becoming more durable, obliging us to accept failure with imperturbable serenity, a state of mind which I have now perfectly achieved, and for which I am becoming well known and much remarked.

But equanimity was remote at the Nashua Regional in early September. Vivienne and I, slumming for red shards, languished in the gloom of uninterrupted failure for a day and one-half, but then, somehow, in our last game, won big. This story is chiefly, therefore, a glory grab, but I contribute this to *Table Talk* too as a token of gratitude to our Bridge friends in Vermont, people who have gone out of their way to help us become better players, distinguished people who don't deserve this outrage against their good taste, kind people who, after reading this essay and finding

their time squandered, will say, “Your thanks *really* wasn’t necessary.” Finally, I offer it as inspiration to those who, like us, despair of real success in Bridge, and for good reason.

In the spring and early summer of 2009 we were cutting a swathe, imperceptibly narrow, through the Vermont Bridge world, scratching in nearly every game we played. Then, just as we thought we had passed some sort of threshold, we rediscovered our old game, once again arriving at every decision, as Click and Clack the “Car Talk” guys say, unimpeded by the thought process.

We had hoped, then, to snap out of our stupor at the Regional, but in the very first game returned to our errors just as dogs, in the colorful words of the Biblical writer, return to their vomit. We scored somewhere in the low-40’s% in that one, and sank to 39% in the second game, a result redeemed, however, by earning .99 red. When I reported this grotesquerie to Mary Savko, Ellie Hanlon, and Frank Hacker, who were at that moment huddling over their knockout results, Ellie said that, if I cared anything about my personal dignity, I should return the red point. I tried, and the Director said revocation was against the rules, but otherwise, definitely, it would be the right thing to do. Frank, being skeptical, examined the results for himself and discovered that we were one of only two C-pairs in that game, the other pair somehow doing worse than we did.

But our disturbingly forgiving master point system isn’t the point of the article. I wanted to tell you how fortune smiled upon a couple of amateurs and made them champs for a day.

The Regional hosted a Gold Rush Pairs Game, a chance for Bridge Lilliputians having fewer than 750 master points to win Gold. In the past we’ve avoided these limited-point events, having discovered years ago that we do just as badly in these as in open pairs games and, for our trouble, learn less. This time, however, seduced, like 160 other pairs, by the emoluments of Gold, we gave it a try.

In the morning game we continued our maladroit play, scoring 36%, a personal low, we think, in tournaments, a result inflicting an exquisite sting. But we soldiered on, beginning the final game by failing to bid a cold small slam and letting another pair bid and make a contract in diamonds when we could have made a part score in spades.

Then a benevolent force moved through the room. Our opponents bid an unmakeable game in hearts; then we made an unmakeable game in no trump; and on another board one of us, by actual skill, developed an overtrick.

If you will indulge this silly flight of imagination, it was as though God, delighting in the most sublime part of His Creation, was kibitzing in Nashua. When He who notes the fall of a sparrow and numbers the (sparse) hairs on our heads detected our wretchedness, the divine sadism, which directs most human affairs, was satiated. Mercy entered his heart and he did corrective neurosurgery on us. At least, I have no better way to explain how our bidding became supernaturally logical, our defense unnaturally effective, and our luck mysteriously providential.

At one table we faced a dour and formidable couple, of whom it could be said that graciousness was not the most conspicuous of their virtues. They ignored our gestures of friendliness. They curtly demanded explanations of our every bid. Opponent surliness usually inspires an effusion of errors, but on this magical afternoon we trampled on their necks. First, we made six in a four-heart contract for a top, and then bid and made a small slam in hearts for a near-top and indecent satisfaction.

The following board, however, best typified our game. I'd like to say that our accumulated experience and skill, prudently applied, turned the cards to our advantage, but it was more Vivienne's intuition and the opponents' bad luck. With no one vulnerable, and West dealer, here are the hands:

		<u>North</u>			
		S	Void		
		H	KQ73		
		D	K542		
		C	KQJ43		
<u>West (Vivienne)</u>				<u>East (Me)</u>	
S	AK652	S	J109874	H	J2
H	9	H	J2	D	A863
D	J1097	D	A863	C	6
C	1072				
		<u>South</u>			
		S	Q3		
		H	A108654		
		D	Q		
		C	A985		

The bidding went:

<u>Vivienne</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>Me</u>	<u>South</u>
P	1C	1S	2H
2C	4H	4S	5H

At other tables, the auction fizzled out here (N-S can actually make 6H), but not at ours. No sooner had LHO put her 5H upon the table with firmness and finality, than Vivienne reared back and slammed down 5S. I thought we were already rashly overbid at 4S so, mirabile dictu, I acted badly. Burying my face in my hands--this pains me to report—I discharged an invective. The opponents passed, the Director was not called, and South led the ace of hearts, followed by the 4 of hearts which I ruffed low in dummy. I cleared trump with the A-K, saving a low trump in my hand, and played a losing club, hoping South would win and foolishly make a diamond lead. But North won anyway, disappointing my wishful thinking, and continued clubs. I ruffed high in my hand, leaving this configuration:

		<u>North</u>			
		S	Void		
		H	KQ		
		D	K54		
		C	KQ		
<u>West</u>				<u>East</u>	
S	65	S	J74	H	Void
H	Void	H	Void	D	A863
D	J1097	D	A863	C	Void
C	10				
		<u>South</u>			
		S	Void		
		H	10865		
		D	Q		
		C	A9		

As usual, I had no precise knowledge where the cards were. Good players should try this kind of blindness sometimes, just to recall how unpleasant it is to have no clue. Clueless, I blindly guessed at a solution that might protect us from going down two. I thought I'd lead a small trump and overtake in dummy, from which I could lead JD toward my AD, in the infinitesimal chance, one, that RHO held the K-Q, and two, was a moron like me, and would fail to split honors. Then, after running the jack, I could lead the 10D, when even a moron would cover, and I'd go down one for a good sacrifice.

I lead the JD, RHO rises with the KD, and I think okay, we're down one, so I cover with the ace and Lo! As if summoned by the black arts, the QD appears to my left and drops deliciously beneath the ace. RHO, lifting her cards high above her head as if to throw them at her partner shouts, "**Get out of here!**" and we make 5S, vindicating Vivienne's intrepidity, for a top.

But this still isn't the reason for this magnificent essay. After the last board, I approached the postings of the next-to-last round scores, hoping to find us in the high-40's% but bracing myself for the usual really bad result. But there we were, the morning goats, now browsing at the summit with over 57%.

Knowing from bitter experience how good rankings go bad when all the scores are toted up, I said nothing to Vivienne, but crept up behind the chattering printer (or maybe that sound was my teeth) and watched it churn out the final standings. Reader, if it can happen to us, it can happen to anyone:

Adairs, Percent: 59.82, Session Rank: 1(A); 1(B); 1.57 Gold

our first and perhaps, God only knows, last win . I hugged my bewildered partner, reported the astonishing news, and then we frantically sought Hanlon and Savko, our guardian Bridge angels, knowing that they would share our delight, assuming we could get them to believe us. They'd hidden well, so we taped a copy of the game summary on their door, gleefully calculating how many passers-by would see it before Ellie and Mary could remove it, and then sped home to Vermont, exulting in our stupendous triumph, forgetting for at least a few fine hours all our numberless tribulations.¹

Promised answer: the opening of Dr. Samuel Johnson's great preface to his 1756 dictionary

DIRECTOR (Please)

By Jim Thomas

Bidding out of turn

Bidding out of turn is one of the most onerous penalties. Passing out of turn is not as bad, but still should be avoided. The laws are varied depending on (1) whose turn it was to bid, (2) if anyone had bid before, and (3) what is bid (pass, natural, artificial, or double).

1

Laws 28 thru 39 apply but mostly Laws 30, 31 and 32. You should review the actual laws and this can be done online at: <http://www.acbl.org/assets/documents/play/Laws-of-Duplicate-Bridge.pdf>

There are some general considerations. With a bid out of turn, the next person usually has the right to accept the bid as if it were in rotation, and then bidding goes on without penalty. Just like an insufficient bid, if you bid before calling the director, the bid will stand and there will be no rectification. As the top of your convention card states, "***When attention is called to an irregularity—CALL THE DIRECTOR.***" The new laws refer to rectification instead of penalty. The idea is to restore equity as much as possible.

Pass out of turn

If you pass out of turn before anyone else has bid, and if the bid is not accepted, bidding reverts to the dealer as indicated on the board, and you must pass at your first opportunity to bid. You may participate in the second round of bidding. That means if you were actually fourth seat, partner cannot make a takeout double because you have to leave it in. Also he cannot make any artificial bid (such as 2 Clubs) because you cannot answer.

If your pass out of turn occurs after someone has bid, the rectification depends on whose turn it was to bid.

When your pass out of rotation is made at offender's RHO's turn to call after any player has bid, you must pass when next it is your turn to call.

If you pass at partner's turn to call, then you must pass whenever it is your turn to call for the remainder of the auction. In addition, partner may make any sufficient bid, or may pass, but may not double or redouble at that turn.

If you pass out of rotation at your LHO's turn to call, that pass is treated as a change of call. Law 25 applies. (Law 25 is a major change from the old laws and will be the subject of another column). If the pass out of rotation is artificial or is a pass of an artificial call, it is treated as a bid out of rotation instead of a pass out of rotation.

Bid out of turn

When your bid out of rotation is the first bid of the auction, and if your LHO accepts the bid, then the auction proceeds as if you were the dealer. There is no rectification and the auction proceeds normally.

When you have bid out of rotation, have passed artificially or have passed your partner's artificial call, **AND** the call is not accepted, the rectification depends on several factors.

If you had bid at your **RHO's** turn to call, and if he then passes, you **MUST** repeat the call out of rotation, and when that call is legal, there is no rectification.

However, if your RHO makes a legal bid, you may make any legal call. If the legal call repeats the denomination (suit) of your bid out of rotation, your partner must pass once (at his next turn to call). If your legal call does not repeat the denomination of your bid out of rotation, or if the call out of rotation was an artificial pass or a pass of partner's artificial call, then partner must pass for the remainder of the auction and there may be lead restrictions.

Partner's or LHO's turn to call

When you have bid at your partner's turn or call, or at your LHO's turn to call, AND if you have not previously called, your partner must pass for the remainder of the auction. There may be lead restrictions. (If you had previously called, a call at LHO's turn to call is considered an illegal change of call and Law 25 applies.)

Authorized/Unauthorized Information from withdrawn calls (Law 16)

For the non-offending side, all information arising from a withdrawn action is authorized, whether the action be its own or its opponent's.

For the offending side, ALL information arising from its own withdrawn action and from withdrawn actions of the non-offending side is unauthorized. A player of the offending side may not choose from among logical alternative actions one that could demonstrably have been suggested over another by the unauthorized information.

Lead Restrictions when defending after a withdrawn call

The lead restrictions as they pertain to withdrawn calls are addressed in Law 26. If your call out of rotation is withdrawn and you choose a different call for that turn, then the lead penalties depend on the call that was withdrawn.

If the call was related to a specific suit, and that suit was bid later in the legal auction, no lead restriction, but there may be unauthorized information. If the call was related to a specific suit, and that suit was not bid later in the legal auction, at the offender's partners first turn to lead (including opening lead) declarer may require or prohibit the lead of that suit. The prohibition lasts as long as partner keeps the lead. If there is more than one suit specified, then declarer chooses the suit.

For other withdrawn calls, declarer may prohibit offender's partner from leading any one suit at his first turn to lead (includes opening lead). That prohibition continues as long as partner holds the lead.

As you can see, bids out of turn can be complicated. My best advice is not to bid out of turn. If you have any questions, email me at mftjet@aol.com. Or if you have a subject for me to address in this column.

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:

John Lampron
Barbara Van Vliet

Elliot Matis
Carol Wilkes

Carol Slesar
Robert Wilkes

Club Master:

Barbara Buchanan Amy Labie Peter Van Vlaanderen

Sectional Master: Raymond Lopes

Regional Master:

Betty Faulkner Robert Taylor

NABC Master: Sheila Long

Life Master

John Newton Sally Newton

Bronze Life Master:

Carlos Galvan June Silverman

Silver Life Master: Don Campbell

VERMONT SUMMER SECTIONAL RESULTS
Castleton, VT
July 10-12, 2009

Friday Afternoon Open Pairs

<u>MP</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>PCT</u>
4.83	1			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	68.75
3.62	2			Bill Irvine – Walter Fontaine	65.28
2.72	3			Robert Smith – Courtney Nelson	63.43
2.04	4			Shome Mukherjee – William Hunter	62.13
1.53	5			Wayne Hersey – June Dorion	60.42
3.08	6	1		Elizabeth VonRiesenfelder – C Kirk Osterland	60.21
2.31		2		Donald Campbell – Norma Jakominich	58.56
2.06		3	1	Sally Newton – John Newton	56.69
1.30		4		William Schiring – Bonnie Clouser	54.86
1.55		5	2	Carolyn Kelley – Betty Faulkner	53.56
1.16		6	3	John Conova – Kenneth Cestone	53.04
0.87			4	Millie Larson – Carolyn Little	53.01
0.61			5	Sheila Long – Karen Kristiansen	49.07

Friday Evening Open Pairs

<u>MP</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>PCT</u>
3.50	1	1		Stanley Rosenthal – James Chase	66.08
2.63	2	2		William Schiring – Bonnie Clouser	62.67

1.97	3	3	1	Sheila Long – Karen Kristiansen	61.22
1.48	4			Patricia Nestork – Lynn Carew	56.81
1.11	5			Frank Hacker – Phil Sharpsteen	53.50
0.88	6			Wayne Hersey – June Dorion	53.48
1.02		4		Barbara Murphy – Richard Saval	52.16
1.22		5	2	Sally Newton – John Newton	51.29
0.91			3	Jacqueline Walker – Marilyn Barnes	50.04
0.68			4	Lorraine Streeter – Helen Lewis	49.58

Saturday Morning Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
5.00	1	1		Judie Muggia – Albert Muggia	64.60
3.75	2			Evelyn Ruby – Neal Gore	62.51
2.81	3	2	1	Carolyn Kelley – Betty Faulkner	60.53
2.11	4			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	59.26
1.58	5			William Schiring – Nicholas Ecker Racz	58.81
1.96	6	3	2	Jacqueline Walker – Marilyn Barnes	57.41
1.47		4		Rich Stevens – Reid Fleming	57.18
1.22		5	3	Sheila Barton – Renee Sahyoun	56.28
0.84		6		Jay Friedenson – Ruth Stokes	56.11
0.92			4	Barbara Unger – Richard Unger	54.86
0.69			5	Sally Newton – John Newton	54.35
0.84			6	John Conova – Lawrence Rawls	53.01

Knockout Teams

12.54	1	Melvin Marcus – Rena Lieberman William Hunter – Shome Mukherjee
6.65	2	Kathleen Farrell – Michael Farrell Patricia DiVincenzo – Gerald DiVincenzo

Saturday Afternoon Flight A Pairs

MP	Names	PCT
5.17	1 June Dorion – Wayne Hersey	61.67
3.88	2 Courtney Nelson – Robert Smith	57.08
2.91	3 Judith Donald – Fred Donald	55.83
2.18	4 Walter Fontaine – Bill Irvine	55.00
1.64	5 Robert Donald – Diane Burger	52.92

Saturday Afternoon Flight B/C/D Pairs

MP	B	C	D	Names	PCT
3.21	1	1	1	Sheila Long – Karen Kristiansen	61.06
2.41	2			Thomas Kurtz – Agnes Kurtz	59.94
1.81	3	2		John Hirst – Margie Wilbur	59.46
1.35	4			Donald Campbell – Norma Jakominich	57.05

1.10	5	3	Jacqueline Walker – Marilyn Barnes	56.25
0.69	6/7		Arthur Giovannangeli – H Lane, Jr.	54.33
0.69	6/7		Joseph Phillips – Lois Phillips	54.33
0.82		4	Lawrence Rawls – John Conova	53.85
0.62		5	Judith Ward – Linda Baker	51.28
0.93		2	Mark Adair – Vivienne Adair	50.16

Sunday Open Swiss Teams

MP	A	B	C	Names	SCORE
7.75	1			Walter Fontaine – Geoffrey Phipps Bill Irvine – Wayne Burt	113
5.09	2/3			Melvin Marcus – Rena Lieberman Shome Mukherjee – William Hunter	104
5.09	2/3			Pierce Smith – Stewart Mackeigan Robert Donald – Diane Burger	104
2.93	4/5			Frank Hacker – Phil Sharpsteen Rudolph Polli – Fred Donald	99
4.42	4/5	1		Stanley Rosenthal – James Chase Gary Feingold – Kotze Toshev	99
2.21	6			Jesse Stalker – Hanan Lushkov H Lane Jr. – Arthur Giovannangeli	93
3.32		2	1	Sally Newton – John Newton Sheila Long – Karen Kristiansen	91
2.49		3	2	John Nelson – Linda Nelson John Conova – Lawrence Rawls	86
1.86		4		Jay Friedenson – Ruth Stokes Jon Stokes – Layton Davis	84

President's Message (fall 2009)

by Phil Sharpsteen

We are hoping to build attendance and enjoyment at our four Vermont sectionals. We have a sectional committee that is charged with this task. We once again have an excellent playing site, the Rutland Holiday Inn, for our May, July and October 2010 sectionals. The April 2010 sectional will continue to be held at the Burlington Bridge Academy in South Burlington.

Keeping the same weekends at a great location has been successful in the past. Events are offered each day for all experience levels. If you haven't tried one of our tournaments or haven't been to one in some time, we encourage you to attend. I am sure you will have a very enjoyable time!

Making The Right Choice

by Phil Sharpsteen

At a recent regional flight A KO, I encountered very interesting declarer play problem. The question is very simple. What is the best line of play at IMPs? The bidding was essentially the same at both tables. North is the dealer with both vulnerable.

S K
H Jxxx
D Axx
C A87xx

S AQJxxx
H Qxxx
D void
C K10x

At table 1 the bidding was

	North	East	South	West
	1C	3D	3S	pass
	3NT	pass	4S	all pass

At the table 2, North passed, instead of opening 1C. After the initial pass, all other bids were the same as at table 1.

The opening lead was a low diamond. As you can see, both declarers regretted not passing 3NT, as there are 9 easy tricks for the IMP game! We can certainly sympathize with the 4S call however. Unless spades break badly, one expects 6 spade tricks, 2 clubs, 1 diamond and hopefully 1 heart for the required 10 tricks.

At table one, the declarer won the diamond ace pitching the losing club. Then the spade king was followed by a diamond ruff to hand. Two more spades revealed a 3-3 break. The club king was led with East showing out. At this point, declarer is almost sure that west's distribution is 3-2-3-5 with one heart honor. So a low heart was lead to the jack and ace. The diamond return was trumped with the queen falling from west (distribution confirmation!). A low heart went to the now bare king in the west hand and the forced club return went to declarer's now high hand, making 5!

At table two, declarer was worried about losing control with a 4-2 trump break and also thought that a 4-1 club break with a singleton 9, jack or queen in the east hand would allow him to bring in the club suit. So the play went diamond ace pitching a heart. He continued with the king of spades followed by a club to hand. Well, unfortunately, the roof fell in! East trumped this, and returned a low heart to west's king. A second club ruff was followed by the heart ace and a heart ruff. Down two! This hand provided most of the 16 imp win for the table one team.

After a lot of thought on the best line, our TT editor came up with what most agreed was the best line. Pitch a club on the ace of diamonds. Overtake the spade king and draw trump. Since they are 3-3 the hand is actually over as you have control to force a heart trick. The same heart inference can be drawn after the club king is played to make 5. If spades are 4-2, you need the same heart deduction to make 4 losing two hearts and one spade. All in all a very interesting hand. And of course one doesn't have hours at the table to play to the first 3 tricks!

Vermont Bridge Association Top 100

December 2009

List based on 12/14 VBA membership roster (paid-up members only)

1.	Allan Graves	12,854	51.	William Schiring	1,026
2.	Anne Hoffman	6,534	52.	David Perrin	1,018
3.	Frank Hacker	5,478	53.	Louise Acker	962
4.	James Gordon	5,197	54.	Jon Stokes	948
5.	Phil Sharpsteen	3,648	55.	James Daigle	893
6.	Mike Farrell	3,358	56.	Norma Jakominich	888
7.	Wayne Hersey	3,323	57.	Gene Kazlow	875
8.	Gerald DiVincenzo	3,272	58.	Edward Schirmer	850
9.	Kathleen Farrell	3,221	59.	Gary Feingold	843
10.	Fred Donald	3,137	60.	Paul Cohen	824
11.	Don Sondergeld	3,124	61.	Mary Granger	751
12.	June Dorion	3,108	62.	Bonnie Clouser	748
13.	J. Peter Tripp	2,899	63.	Irene Vignoe	737
14.	Courtney Nelson	2,797	64.	Stuart Osborn	735
15.	Patricia DiVincenzo	2,580	65.	Mitchell Kontoff	729
16.	Michael Engel	2,478	66.	Eileen Fleiter	720
17.	David Shaw	2,468	67.	Elizabeth Clewley	703
18.	Clifford Gordon	2,452	68.	Nancy Lolli	698
19.	Rudolph Polli	2,302	69.	C. Kirk Osterland	676
20.	Jackie Kimel	2,177	70.	Patricia Earle	614
21.	Judith Donald	2,175	71.	Alan Wertheimer	608
22.	Robert Smith	2,156	72.	Ed Brass	599
23.	Pierce Smith	2,154	73.	Raymond Johnson	563
24.	Lynn Carew	2,152	74.	Joyce Stone	545
25.	Penny Lane	1,792	75.	Elizabeth von Riesenfelder	540
26.	Bryant Jones	1,743	76.	Ronald Silverman	539
27.	Patricia Nestork	1,719	77.	Richard Gazley	528
28.	Nicholas Ecker Racz	1,696	78.	Constance Beliveau	522
29.	Jack Rihn	1,658	79.	Martha Gazley	517
30.	Peter Bouyea	1,657	80.	Kotze Toshev	516
31.	Beatrice Spier	1,635	81.	Robert Chiabrandy	512
32.	Andy Avery	1,607	82.	Carlos Galvan	508
33.	Stanley Rosenthal	1,511	83.	June Silverman	504
34.	Barbara Fitzgerald	1,502	84.	Sarah Bastick	486
35.	Gerow Carlson	1,425	85.	George Malek	466
36.	Jay Friedenson	1,408	86.	Lucy Morini	457
37.	Linda Bouyea	1,346	87.	Lois Mailloux	447
38.	Paul Reardon	1,307	88.	Marsha Anstey	435
39.	Ruth Stokes	1,305	89.	Thomas Smith	414
40.	Marcia Wilkins	1,277	90.	Layton Davis	405
41.	Jesse Stalker	1,249	91.	Grant Pealer	404
42.	Steve Dunham	1,197	92.	Ernest Shawcross	393
43.	Chris Acker	1,182	93.	Anne Farrell	391
44.	Mary Tierney	1,166	94.	Betty Stanley	387
45.	Michael Gore	1,139	95.	Ruth Brass	386
46.	C. Edward Midgley	1,098	96.	Richard Unger	385
47.	William Sibley	1,053	97.	John Conova	378
48.	Rigmor Shawcross	1,053	98.	John A. Newton	376
49.	Barbara Philpet	1,035	99.	James Chase	372
50.	Donald Campbell	1,030	100.	Barbara MacDonald	359

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 2009. Frequent winner Phil Sharpsteen has run away with the competition. Many frequent contenders wintered in Florida and missed the first tournament of the year. Four Aborn trophy contenders made the final list. Here are the top 10. Apologies to anyone I inadvertently omitted.

1.	Phil Sharpsteen	47.26	6.	Karen Kristiansen	29.41
2.	June Dorion	36.14	7.	Pierce Smith	28.69
2.	Wayne Hersey	36.14	8.	Jerry DiVincenzo	28.08
4.	Frank Hacker	33.96	9.	Michael Farrell	28.08
5.	Sheila Long	32.12	10.	Sally Newton	26.25
			10.	John Newton	26.25

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. Here are the final results. We crown a new champion as the Newtons, perennial past winners, had to settle for third this year. I am happy to report that the Newtons will never again win the Aborn trophy. Congratulations to them for becoming life masters at the last sectional. Congratulations to Sheila Long for an outstanding performance and also to Karen Kristiansen for her excellent showing. Here are the top 10. Apologies to anyone I inadvertently omitted.

1.	Sheila Long	32.12	6.	Ross Lieb-Lappen	10.98
1.	Karen Kristiansen	29.41	7.	Lee Corbett	9.68
3.	Sally Newton	26.25	8.	Judith Ward	8.24
3.	John Newton	26.25	9.	Richard Clark	7.02
5.	John Conova	21.79	10.	Arthur Aiken	6.38
			10.	Linda Aiken	6.38

President's Cup

The Vermont Bridge Association annual meeting took place on October 4 at the Burlington Bridge Academy in South Burlington. The festivities included 2 sessions of bridge and a dynamite turkey dinner. There were 18.5 tables for bridge. Congratulations to June Dorion and Wayne Hersey for leading the way. The overall winners were

MP	A	B	C	Names	.
6.16	1			Wayne Hersey – June Dorion	605.26
4.62	2			William Schiring – Nicholas Ecker Racz	553.02
3.47	3			Sandra Hammer – Courtney Nelson	540.55
2.60	4			Kathleen Farrell – Patricia DiVincenzo	538.42
3.93	5	1		Stanley Rosenthal – Gary Feingold	530.99

2.05	6		Michael Farrell – Gerald DiVincenzo	530.48
2.95	2	1	Sheila Long – Karen Kristiansen	521.61
2.32	3		Patricia Earle – Gladys Rocheleau	518.95
1.97	4	2	Richard Clark – Gordon Johnson	517.70
1.31	5		Paul Reardon – Linda Bouyea	478.22
1.12	6		Abraham Brown – Jean Brown	477.21
1.47		3	John Newton – Sally Newton	469.64
1.11		4	Barbara Buchanan – Claire Beckler	447.12
0.92		5	Rhoda Chickering – Sandy Desilets	446.44

The Twilight Zone Pairs

By Frank Hacker

With 2 boards to go in the Twilight Zone Pairs, you are having a halfway decent game and may, if nothing bad happens, emerge with a section 4th. You are East and strangely enough you have the same hand for both boards. Stranger still, the auction and opening lead are the same for both boards. Not only that, the dummy is the same for both boards.

The auction for both boards is

<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
1N	P	2H	P
2S	P	3N	all pass

1N shows 15-17 and 2H is a transfer to spades. Partner leads the king of hearts. Here is the situation that confronts you on both boards

S	KQJ42
H	75
D	A42
C	Q96

K of hearts led

S	85
H	A94
D	Q753
C	8743

You like hearts and choose to inform partner by signaling with the 9. Partner continues with the queen of hearts. What now? If partner has the KQJ of hearts, you need to overtake the queen with the ace to unblock the suit and get out of partner's way. That's what you decide to do.

Bad luck. The entire layout was

	S	KQJ42		S	85
	H	75		H	A94
	D	A42		D	Q753
	C	Q96		C	8743
S	10763				
H	KQ6				
D	J86				
C	J52				

S A9
H J10832
D K109
C AK10

Declarer concealed a 5 card heart suit to the J. Partner's only 4 card suit was spades He was hoping to hit you with his heart lead.

The second board came with the first board still fresh in your memory. This time you decide not to overtake. Bad luck again. This time the layout was

	S	KQJ42		
	H	75		
	D	A42		
	C	Q96		
S	10763		S	85
H	KQJ83		H	A94
D	86		D	Q753
C	52		C	8743
	S	A9		
	H	1032		
	D	KJ109		
	C	AKJ10		

This is most discouraging. How are you supposed to guess what to do? The answer is quite simple. You should **never** overtake the queen at trick 2. If partner has the second of the 2 hands, he should lead the jack at trick 2 to let you know that he wants you to unblock.

Dave Perrin Wins Perrin Pairs (Almost)

The umpteenth annual Perrin Pairs took place on December 5 at the Burlington Bridge Academy. The format was 2 sessions of bridge with a turkey dinner between. The hors d'oeuvres, dinner and desserts were all top notch.

The Perrin pairs are so named to honor Lynn and Dave Perrin, who for a very long time used to host an annual early December bridge party in the social hall of their church in Charlotte.

Dave Perrin and partner, Bill Nestork, had big score in the second session. This catapulted them to second over all. Congratulations to Rudy Polli and Frank Hacker who spoiled the headline to this article. There were 12.5 tables for bridge. The overall winners were

MP	A	B	C	Names	.
4.89	1			Rudy Polli – Frank Hacker	337.42
3.67	2	1		Dave Perrin – Bill Nestork	333.92
2.75	3			Kathleen Farrell – Patricia DiVincenzo	328.54
1.85	4/5			Jackie Kimel – Dave Shaw	327.38
2.48	4/5			Penny Lane – Peter Tripp	327.38
2.56	6	2		Lynn Carew – Pat Nestork	315.71
2.54		3	1	John Newton – Sally Newton	309.38

1.44	4	Bryant Jones – Bonnie Clouser	302.71
1.14	5	Kotze Toshev – Stanley Rosenthal	297.29
1.91	2	Lorraine Streeter – Tom Cronin	288.67
1.43	3	Richard Clark – Gordon Johnson	286.00
1.07	4	Tom Smith – Ron Silverman	280.04

The final overall results are obtained by adding together the results of the 2 sessions. Each session has its own master point awards. Players win the greater of their overall award and the sum of their awards for the two sessions (but not both). This explains how a 4/5 tie could be worth more to one pair than to another.

Some of you may be curious to know how the ACBL determines the master point award for first place. There actually is a formula, not just a random number generator. The Perrin Pairs is a 2 session unit game. The awards for unit games are 85% (or 17/20) of the awards for sectional games. To determine the sectional first place award, start by adding 10 to the number of tables (round 12.5 up to 13). Take this result (23) and divide by 4 to get a first place sectional award of 23/4. Multiply this by 17/20 to get 391/80. Rounded to 2 decimal places, this is 4.89.

By the way number 1. For a single session game, the ACBL divides by 6 instead of by 4.

By the way number 2. The President's Pairs (reported elsewhere in this issue) had 18.5 tables. The first place award was obtained the same way. The sectional first place award would have been 29/4. Multiplying by 17/20 gave a result of 493/80, or 6.16..

Vermont On The Tournament Trail

Many Vermonters have done well (10 points or more) recently at the San Diego 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>San Diego Nationals:</u>	Allan Graves	109.85	Ellie Hanlon	56.31
	Mary Savko	56.31	Courtney Nelson	14.46
<u>Lancaster:</u>	Peter Tripp	15.95	Penny Lane	11.85
<u>Daytona:</u>	Allan Graves	194.86	Mary Savko	35.61
	Ellie Hanlon	35.61		
<u>Danbury:</u>	Mary Savko	55.83	Jay Friedenson	13.00
	Ellie Hanlon	55.83		
<u>Ottawa:</u>	Allan Graves	42.29	Ellie Hanlon	39.36
	Mary Savko	39.36		
<u>Hunt Valley:</u>	Allan Graves	146.19	Peter Tripp	36.01
	Penny Lane	36.01		

Fredericton: Mary Savko 63.69 Ellie Hanlon 63.69

Pittsburgh: Allan Graves 72.99

I always apologize for inadvertent omissions. Here we recognize the achievements we missed in the last issue.

Hunt Valley: Norma Jakominich 16.98

Saratoga Springs: Norma Jakominich 26.43
Don Campbell 21.01

ACBL TRIVIA

Here is some information taken from the ACBL web site

1. How many members does the ACBL have? (about 163,500)
2. Who has the most master points? (Jeff Meckstroth of Tampa, FL – 64,399)
3. Who is the top Canadian player? (Ken Gee of Regina, SK – 20,946)
4. How many players have over 10,000 points? (449)
5,000 (1,961)
2,500 (7,010)
1,000 (26,455)
5. How many players have fewer than 300 points? (96,171)
100 (68,125)

These last 2 answers show that there are plenty of potential players for under 300 games or under 100 games, if we can just manage to get them to come.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Jan. 8-10 Keohane Individual Regional, Boston Marriott Newton, Newton, MA
Feb 10 -15 NE KO Team Regional, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cromwell, CT
March 2-7 Canadian Bridge Federation Regional, Montreal Airport Hotel, Montreal, PQ
March 11-21 Spring Nationals, Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, NV
April 1-3 Vermont Sugar Time Sectional, Burlington Bridge Academy, So. Burlington, VT (see flyer this issue)
April 28 May 2 Cape Cod Senior Regional, Sea Crest Resort, No. Falmouth, MA
May 21-23 Vermont Spring Sectional, Holiday Inn, Rutland, VT (see flyer this issue)

TABLE TALK PATRONS FOR 2010

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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Gazley, Dick & Marti	Sahyoun, Renee	
Gisholt, Jan	Savko, Mary. & Hanlon, Ellie	

Vermont Sugar-time Sectional

Burlington Bridge Academy
7 Green Tree Drive
South Burlington, VT 05403

April 1 - 3, 2010

Sanction # S1004081

Schedule of events:

Thursday 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

Friday April 2nd:

1:30 PM Open Pairs, Stratified
Under 100 Pairs

7:30 PM Open Pairs, Stratified
Under 100 Pairs

Saturday 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: unlimited B: <1500, LMs & >500 C: NLM <500
Newcomer Stratifications: A: <100 B<50 C<20

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

NOTE THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY SCHEDULE

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 21 - 23, 2010

Sanction # S1005108

Schedule of events:

Friday May 21st

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

Saturday May 22nd

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

Sunday May 23rd

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 above 1500, B 500 to 1500, C 0 to 500
 Newcomer Stratifications: A 100 to 300, B 50 to 100, C 0 to 50 (Strats may be adjusted)

Price per session: \$9 - \$1 additional for Non-ACBL members
 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 7, 2010**

1 Night Stay

	<u>1 person</u>	<u>2 people</u>	
Double Bed	\$99	\$115	Includes hot breakfast buffet_ and \$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	

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