

# TABLE TALK

A Publication of the Vermont Bridge Association  
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Jay Friedenson and friends – Wally on lap, Front left to right Bogie, Goldie, Silvie

I was born on April 1, 1935 (April fool's joke on my mother) in The Bronx, N.Y. I lived 3 blocks from Yankee Stadium. During the 7<sup>th</sup> inning stretch – the gate-keepers used to let all the kids in for free for the last 2 innings. And so I watched many 2 inning Yankee games and got to see play Yogi Berra, Bill Dickey, Phil Rizzuto, Joe Dimaggio, Tommy Henrich and Charlie Keller So, with that background, despite my changing residences, I have remained a Yankee fan.

I became interested in tennis, when, at the age of 15, I was given a tennis racquet by my uncle. I played for a long time with a friend out on the street -- No nets, no fences, no lines (and no lessons). I quickly learned you must never let a tennis ball get by you.

Tennis was to become a major part of my life. I played on my college tennis team at Alfred University where I was Captain of the team and played # 1 singles. During my Navy service I played on the Norfolk Naval Base team. I have fond memories of being informed by my skipper when we were nearing port that Lieutenant Friedenson was to be picked up by the Commander's official car for transportation to an important tennis match. One of my retirement objectives was to play competitive tennis in the senior divisions of the USTA. I achieved a 12 ranking in New England in the 65 age category and a 6 ranking in New England in the 70 age category. A highlight of my tennis career was my participation on a Super Senior League tennis team which represented New England in Nationals competition in s 2004, 2005 and 2006. We won the National title in 2004 beating Texas in the finals. Fortunately, my 6 coronary by-passes and aortic valve replacement have not prevented me from continuing to enjoy the sport. I have been Senior Men's Club Champion of the Stowe tennis club for 10 of the 11 years I have been a member – the only exception being the year (despite my protestations) my cardiologist insisted that I skip our club tournament to recover from open heart surgery.

I was interested in Spanish in college, but my father fortunately convinced me to major in something that would make it easier to earn a living. I chose chemistry which I never liked that much. After graduation, I attended the Naval Officers' Candidate School in Newport, R.I. from which I graduated as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy in April of 1957 with the idea of seeing the world and thinking about what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. I had 3 years of sea duty, first on a destroyer as a deck officer and then in the amphibious forces on a landing ship dock as Gunnery Officer.

I played bridge for the first time in 1958. There isn't a lot to do in the middle of the Atlantic ocean on a navy ship. There was a group of guys who played bridge during their leisure hours. Since I didn't know how to play, I was out of that loop. One day while on liberty in Naples, Italy, I stopped in a book store and purchased a book (in English) by Charles Goren called something like "Bridge, A Self-Teacher, Point Count System." I studied it like a college textbook for 2 months. One day I volunteered to be a fourth. On the very first hand- my opponents got into a dispute over the bidding. I recognized the bidding situation from a description in the book so I spewed out the information and everyone was impressed with my knowledge. I became the local "expert" on bidding. After that I played bridge 4-5 times a week for about 6 months (without learning very much I would add) at which time 2 of our bridge players were transferred. I wasn't to play bridge again for 30 years.

My time was up in the Navy in 1960. I went to night law school at The George Washington Law School in Washington D.C. During the day I clerked for a patent law firm and then in the fall of 1961 I became a Patent Examiner for the U.S. Government in the chemical arts (thanks Dad). I was married in 1960. We had 2 daughters, Debra and Jo-anne. Jo-anne lives in Virginia Beach, VA and manages departments and is a personal shopper at Nordstrom's. Debra lives in West Orange, N.J. and manages her husband's dental practice. Debra has two sons, my grandsons, Aaron who will be a senior at the University of Michigan majoring in history and David who will be a sophomore at Yale University undecided as to major, but gifted in music, art and mathematics. A recent grandson highlight for me was attending Aaron's eagle scout award ceremony where I got to sit in the "Eagle's Nest" reserved for family members and eagle scouts.

In January of 1964 I began work as a patent attorney for Allied Chemical Corporation, which eventually became Honeywell International Corporation. I retired in 2000 after 36 years of service ending as Chief Intellectual Property Counsel – Chemicals. A fond memory I have from my working days is that I was instrumental in putting the red M&M's back in the package. To you M&M fans – you may remember that for a time the red M&M's disappeared from the M&M packages. The red food color used was delisted by the FDA, because it was found to produce tumors in rats. Other red food colors were also delisted. I wrote and obtained the patent on a red food color developed by my company which was approved by the FDA as safe. It was listed by the FDA as Red # 40 and was the only game in town. Back

went the red M&M's in the package. The patent was challenged in Court and we won. It made a ton of money for my company. But the greatest satisfaction was the knowledge that millions of children have me to thank for red M&M's.

In 1979 after 4 months of bachelorhood following my divorce from my first wife (she didn't like red M&M's) I met Ingrid and we married in 1982. That year we acquired a dog, a Belgian Tervuren who was to have a major impact on our lives. Ingrid got bitten by the dog show bug and many years and a small fortune later we have 3 Belgian Tervurens and 1 mini-wire-haired Dachshund called "Wally". All of the dogs are American champions. Our puppies reside all over the country from Alaska/California to Maine/Florida. Our dogs have been ranked in the top 10 in the U.S. and # 1 in Canada in their breed and 2 of our dogs have won ribbons at the Westminster dog show. Ingrid is also into various performance competitions with the dogs which require a lot of training. Two of our dogs are involved in sheep and duck herding competition, 1 in tracking competition, 1 in agility competition and later we will have 2 in obedience competition.

In 1986 Ingrid and I went on a ski trip to Smugglers' Notch, Vermont. We fell in love with the village there and bought a condo before we left for home. We decided that we wanted to retire to Vermont to the consternation of our families who wondered why anyone would want to go north from New Jersey to retire.

In 1988 one of my tennis friends in New Jersey (David) re-kindled my interest in bridge and became my bridge mentor. I began to play duplicate but due to a heavy travel schedule at work was only able to play on the average about 2-4 times a month until the day I retired.

I had always planned to retire at the age of 65 and the day came. Now was the time to fulfill my post-retirement goals to play senior competitive tennis, play competitive bridge and work on my bridge degrees, spend more time with the dogs, ski and get back to playing the piano. We had purchased some property in Elmore, VT, designed a home to accommodate our needs and our dog hobby and had it built in time to move in in April, 2000. Happily I found the Burlington Bridge Academy and the good friends and partners I have met there. With their help and the help of my late bridge mentor, David, I have earned my Life, Bronze and Silver Masters while in Vermont. My favorite career bridge highlights include: possessing a fractional platinum point (earned by placement in a national pairs event), coming back from 55 imps down in the first half to win a KO match at a Gatlinburg Regional and beating KO teams which included Mel Cochamiro and Richard DeMartino.

In an effort to give something back, I serve as President of a non-profit corporation called VETEGA, Inc., an acronym for "veterinary efforts in giving to animals". In response to a call for help from my veterinarians, I registered our name, filed the incorporation papers and also gained approval our application for 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. VETEGA raises and administers funds, in partnership with veterinarians, for animals in need of medical or surgical care who either do not have locatable owners, or have owners who need financial assistance for such care.

**DIRECTOR**<sub>(please)</sub>

By Jim Thomas

Misconceptions at the table are commonplace. Most of these have been covered before, but I still hear players voicing them at sectionals and regionals.

1. “Play it out” after a claim is made

The law clearly states that play ceases when a claim is made. If you cannot agree on the result of the hand call the director. (If you are claiming, you are best protected if you state a line of play before the opponents object to the claim.)

**Editorial Comment:** Claims are supposed to speed up play. Nothing (OK – very little) is more annoying than spending 5 minutes while declarer, with more winners than there are tricks remaining, carefully plays out his/her top winners. In practice, claims work well at the higher competition levels. At the lower levels, players are extremely focused on making sure the claimer doesn't pull a “fast one” and there are too many bridge lawyers trying to extract their pound of flesh if the claimer is guilty of even the most insignificant inaccuracy.

2. I am declarer and I can change the card I played.

The law clearly states what is a played card. Even if you are declarer, when a card is at or on the table, it is a played card. The only exception is if you did not follow suit and you could have. The played card goes back into declarer's hand and declarer must follow suit. As declarer, you are still responsible for following suit and may suffer revoke penalties for failure to do so.

3. I did it in the same breath.

I don't know where this came from, but it is not in the law book. The bidding box have eliminated most of this. Now I hear this statement when declarer wants to change the call card from dummy. There is a phrase that says “without thought,” but that is a judgment call and you want to avoid it if possible. The director may not agree with you. Please review the law concerning a played card. When you name a card from dummy, it is played whether or not your dummy has reached for it. A common occurrence is when you plan to finesse. If LHO plays the king and you call for the queen, it is played. The argument that no one in his right mind would do that may be correct, but you called the wrong card. Wait to see what LHO plays before you call a card from dummy.

4. One no trump opening bid ranges do not have to be announced.

THIS IS A MYTH. The ACBL Board of Directors have not changed their mind. Partner should always announce the point range. If you happen to be a pair that changes their no trump ranges based on vulnerability and opening seat position, it is critical and you may be penalized.

5. That was not the ruling I got at the club when I did the same thing.

This may or may not be true. This is the hardest one to deal with, because the tournament director only gets one side of the story. The two situations may be slightly different. Some directors make a point of “Vermont Friendly Rulings” and try to get a “bridge result.” In small games, a penalty may make a larger difference in a hand's result. When you have a 25 or larger top in the field, a penalty does not make much difference to the rest of the field. Also club directors have a tougher timekeeping up with law changes, as the ACBL does not make available

to them the web forum where the tournament directors discuss the fine points of different situations. Remember also that there are judgment calls. Not all directors will agree, especially in situations where players may have received unauthorized information. The unauthorized information law is one of the hardest to administer.

6. I never get a good ruling.

As a director, I can say that we strive to give consistent rulings independent of the players involved. When we present problems to other directors, the individual players are not identified. Some rulings are dependent on the skill of the players. I have a tough time believing that Jeff Meckstroth (the ACBL's all-time masterpoint leader) does not know what his partner's bid means or that he forgot his system, but that is a reasonable explanation from a new player in his/her first tournament. If this explanation does not help you, then strive to bid or play in tempo, do not revoke and avoid behavior that gives the opponents an opportunity to call the director.

As always, if you have a question, email me at [mftjet@aol.com](mailto:mftjet@aol.com) or contact your friendly Table Talk editor.

## Vermonters On The Way Up

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

### Junior Master:

Patricia Barnett  
Leslie Haines  
Thomas McAuliff  
Matt Sherman

Marianne Chaikin  
Lael Kellett  
Michael Morris  
Jill Simon

Mary Jo Champlin  
Merrily Lewis  
Barbara Powers  
Richard Tracy

### Club Master:

Anne Beck  
Edward Labenski

Mindy Bloom  
Diane Liccardi

Susan Brown  
Gilbert Nadeau

### Sectional Master:

Linda Aiken  
Barbara Buchanan  
Marjorie Hurley  
Robert Sullivan

Jenny Bell  
Patricia Eastman  
Kenneth Kaleita

Arlyne Berke  
Katherine Hoopes  
Linda Kaleita

### Regional Master:

Nicole Becker

Gay Squire

Roger Squire

### Life Master:

**Gordon Johnson**

**Sheila Long**

**Bill Reeves**

### Gold Life Master:

Penny Lane

# Vermont Friendly Bridge

By Bob Smith

Is it possible to play serious, competitive duplicate bridge and still keep the game friendly? Webster defines competition as the act of competing, a rivalry, contest or match. It could also be the rivalry between businesses. Wait. It goes further: a war or combat between enemies.

Competition is a contest between friendly or unfriendly opponents for a prize or trophy, hence, the need for rules and guidelines. As competitive as a game or contest may get, it can remain friendly. Herein is a fine line: How do you keep the game competitive and maintain affability.

Exactly what are the differences between ACBL guidelines and Vermont Friendly recommendations? One thing is for certain: Any competition or contest requires rules. Unfortunately, to compete or battle with an opponent, unfriendly or even hostile conditions may prevail.

In my opinion, the joy of competing is *doing everything within your ability to win*, but not to lose the concept of competing and having fun.

Winning, according to the great coach, Vince Lombardi, was not everything — it was the only thing! That was my idol and coach's whole concept of competition. I happen to disagree. It's not the only thing. I believe winning — and sometimes losing — a close match is what develops a great competitor.

When I played football, baseball and basketball many years ago, I was best described as a “spikes high” athlete, a Ty Cobb type of ballplayer. It may have appeared that I was a hard-nose loser. In fact, I was, but I also could accept a tough loss and get on with it. My opponents also knew that I never had a problem jumping over the net to shake their hand or buy a beer for an adversary who just beat the hell out of me in a close winner-take-all battle. It was the fun of winning *and* losing. If you never lost, it meant you never played the tough ones.

*Back to Vermont Friendly Bridge.*

The American Contract Bridge League is losing approximately 25 to 30% of its new players every year. Why? I believe one major problem is the ACBL's overzealous interpretation of the rules that govern duplicate bridge.

There is another statistic to evaluate. There are successful bridge clubs that are not growing. Why is their club not expanding and growing in membership? All too frequently, it relates to the unfortunate reputation that duplicate bridge is not friendly. In far too many clubs, the directors or owners do not concentrate on developing their new, inexperienced players. This can be accomplished with *free* lectures or lessons, and games such as Pro-Am themes, encouraging the better players to partner-up with eager, less skilled members of their club. Don't get me wrong. I am not expecting the better players to donate their lives to developing the weaker players, just a day or evening every now and then. Lectures, on the other hand, can be effective and they should be scheduled weekly.

In my post-athlete years, I was a professional umpire. I can attest to the fact that good umpires understand the rules and also recognize that they are guidelines, not absolute edicts. Let me illustrate a few examples of rules or laws that are on the books for guideline purposes only, not strict interpretation.

- ❖ Baseball — The strike zone and batter’s box is defined by illustration and verbal interpretation. If a batter makes contact with a legally pitched ball and steps inside or outside of the batter’s box, according to the rules, he is technically “out.” No good umpire will call the batter out as long as he was making a legitimate attempt to hit the ball. If the umpire is informed by the catcher that the batter stepped outside the batter’s box, the umpire will state, “He stepped out of the box — after making contact with the ball.” The umpire’s logic is simple. The rule was not made for that stretching of the rule. It was there to guard against deliberate violations, such as a batter stepping out of the box to blind the catcher’s vision.
- ❖ Law Enforcement — Drivers are expected to stay within the posted speed limit, but, it is an unwritten rule by most law enforcement officers that a driver be allowed an 8 to 9 mile-an-hour grace over the legal speed limit. It is apparent that a speed limit is required to maintain a safe environment, but not an unrealistic law that will be impossible or impractical to enforce, unless you want to lock up the entire community!

The legal exceptions to the rules are far too numerous to mention. In bridge, there are hundreds. One of the most important changes ACBL should make to decrease the outlandish number of lost members would be to have special tournament rule interpretations and more friendly local or club rules. It is important that club directors recognize this and help to educate players at the local level.

Example :

Spades - A Q J 10 X

2 of Spades is led and the Queen is played and holds. The right hand opponent shows out.

Declarer returns to her hand and plays the 4 of spades. The crafty left-hand opponent quickly plays the King of spades and declarer, in a sleepy mode, calls for the Jack. The right-hand opponent plays a card.

The rules might say the Jack has been called for, but I, as a Director, would invoke Vermont Friendly Bridge and allow the declarer to correct her error *if she recognizes the mistake in a timely manner*. The purpose of the rule was not to punish unfairly, but to maintain fair guidelines.

A recent situation I witnessed is as good an example of Vermont Friendly Bridge as I have ever seen. The auction goes:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1N	2H	dbl for penalty	P
P	3C	dbl for penalty	3H

The result is down two vulnerable. The problem is that the original doubler insists he verbally doubled 3H. The opponent said he didn’t, and his partner was not sure. The Director ruled that 3 Hearts was not doubled.

My ruling as a Director, in an attempt to be fair, would have been: Nothing changed, all the bids by the South hand were doubled, thus, it should be assumed that if the first two bids were unchanged and were doubled, so would the 3H rescue

bid be doubled. The Director's job is to protect all and ensure the integrity of the game.

Earlier I mentioned there should be two sets of guidelines concerning bridge — tournament bridge and local club games. The ACBL has ruled that negative bids no longer need to be alerted. Think about it: How many of your club members do not play in tournaments? How many of the players do not fully understand negative doubles?

My Vermont Friendly attitude is just that. It is the local club's responsibility to do everything possible to protect their less-informed members. All questionable bids should be alerted.

I've spent my entire life teaching and coaching. It's fun to see people develop into better players. It is the responsibility of local club owners and directors to do everything possible to assure Vermont Friendly Bridge and keep their games competitive, enjoyable and friendly.

See you at the table...

*Bob Smith is the owner/director of Manchester & the Mountains Duplicate Bridge Club in Manchester Center, Vermont.*

## **ETHICS IN BRIDGE**

By Phil Sharpsteen

Bridge is one card game (and maybe the only one) where intentionally trying to deceive or relay unauthorized information through sudden break in tempo during the bidding or play is not allowed. It is considered unethical and a tournament director may adjust the score on a board if he/she believe the offender achieved an advantage through this type of unethical behavior.

The point of the game is to try to figure the distribution and high cards in the two unknown hands as quickly as possible. This does often require thought, so pausing to think is allowed – just not when you have no obvious problem and not for the express purpose of deceiving the opponents! In this first article on this subject, we will concentrate on the play of the cards.

So the bidding is over and the opening lead is made. This is the first opportunity to see the dummy and for the declarer and the defenders to formulate their plans. If the declarer plays quickly to trick 1, the best thing to say as 3<sup>rd</sup> hand is “I always take time to study the hand before playing to the first trick.”

Any undue delay in play is now covered and whether or not you have an actual problem with the play to trick one is unknown. As an example, say the contract is 3NT and partner has lead the 3 of a suit which has AJ72 in dummy. If you hold the 4, 6 and 8 and go into a huddle after the 2 is played – this is a no-no! Conversely, if you hold Q94 you do have a problem whether to play the 9 or the queen so a huddle here would be ethical but would also accurately give away the fact that you had a choice of cards to play at trick one. E.g. after some long thought, you play the 9 you had better have a higher card! The statement above removes the transmission of any unauthorized information – you were thinking about the whole hand so producing the 9 after some thought doesn't have any special significance.

During the play, when declarer leads toward a suit with KJ5 in dummy you had better play in your normal tempo with 4, 6 and 8! Agonizing over what to play, detaching one card and replacing it with another or



simply going into a trance are all unethical and not part of the game. You should strive to play in your normal tempo in these situations leaving declarer to select the K or the J guess based on bidding and play to that point and not on any antics on your part! Also, if you do have the queen in this situation, you should be prepared to play low in tempo so as not to give declarer any information on the location of the high cards. As a general rule, to stay in tempo, you should avoid playing unusually slowly or unusually quickly to any trick – just steady play. If you do have to think with some high cards in the suit lead be advised that this is authorized information for declarer and you may help him/her solve a guess.

I had read about checking for the unethical behavior of an unknown opponent who suddenly hesitates with nothing – trying to convey that they have a problem in what to play. Suppose you have a 2-way guess for a missing queen. You have to guess the queen correctly to make your contract. You may be fortunate enough to be able to test the opponents' behavior in a suit where you do not have a guess For example, suppose you have the following 2 suits in your hand and dummy:

**Dummy**

S	KJx
H	KJx

**Hand**

S	AQx
H	A10x

Before working on the critical heart suit, you can lead a spade toward dummy's KJx to see how left hand opponent reacts. If LHO gives you a performance, you know how he/she plays without the queen. When you lead a low heart toward dummy's KJx, While there are no guarantees, LHO's behavior should tell you what to do, If LHO plays low in tempo, he probably has the queen. If he tries for an Academy Award, you should probably play the king and finesse his partner for the queen.

One other thing, play with singletons can sometimes be unethical. You NEVER suddenly hesitate (or pull a non-existent 2<sup>nd</sup> card in the suit) with a singleton. You simple play in tempo whether the singleton is the K or the 2. Also avoid playing a singleton with special emphasis (snapping, playing closer to partner than your other plays, etc.)

The ability to play in tempo can be very important. Many years ago, Frank and I were playing on a KO team in Gatlinburg with Patty DiVincenzo and Kathy Farrell. Kathy was declare in a 6S contract with a trump suit of AK9xx opposite 108xx. Kathy started with the ace of spades and left hand opponent followed with the queen. The principle of restricted choice says that you should finesse right hand opponent for the jack. Unfortunately for LHO (and fortunately for us), he did not play the queen in tempo, but instead played the card very quickly. Kathy correctly deduced that he had QJ and made her slam by defying the odds.

So, following the play in-tempo rule as much as possible makes for a much more enjoyable game for all. Try to make adjustments in your play if you think you may be guilty of too many 'tells' to borrow a term from the game of poker where such shenanigans are part of the game! We will discuss the ethics that arise in bidding in the next TT.

# St. Johnsbury Unit Club Championship

Report by Arthur Aiken

The Barton and Lyndonville bridge clubs hosted a 2 session unit Club Championship on June 16, 2012 at the St. Johnsbury House in St. Johnsbury, VT. A donation of \$844 was given to the Good Living Center, a non-profit organization, under the direction of Susan Shaw, whose objective is to keep elders active. There were 10 ½ tables for the morning session. The second session followed a lunch served by the Good Living Center. There were 11 tables for the second session.

Average for the first session was 108. The winners were

1 <sup>st</sup>	Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	136.71
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Stephen King – Susan King	123.40
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sally Newton – John Newton	117.53
4 <sup>th</sup>	Jerry Himelstein – Linda Himelstein	115.68

Average for the second session was 84. The winners were

1 <sup>st</sup>	Colleen Lord – Sandra Corrigan	90.50
2/3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rhoda Chickering – Rick Clark	90.00
2/3 <sup>rd</sup>	Linda Himelstein – Jerry Himelstein	90.00
4/5 <sup>th</sup>	Penny Lane – Peter Tripp	89.50
4/5 <sup>th</sup>	Joan LeBaron – Scott Perry	89.50

## Vermont Spring Sectional

Holiday Inn, Rutland VT

June 1-3, 2012

### Friday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C		Pct
4.17	1			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	68.03
3.21	2	1	1	John Newton – Sally Newton	61.72
2.41	3	2		Irene Vignoe – Patricia Williams	61.34
2.08	4	3		Layton Davis – Bryant Jones	59.18
1.46	5			Judith Donald – Kathleen Farrell	57.35
0.99	6			Fred Donald – Michael Farrell	56.62
1.59		4	2	Kenneth Kaleita – Linda Kaleita	56.33
1.02		5		Israel Perlman – Elizabeth VonRiesenfelder	55.68
0.77		6		Jay Friedenson – Alan Wertheimer	54.07
1.19			3	John Conova – Karen Kristiansen	52.47
0.89			4	Todd Kerekes – Patricia Kerekes	50.87
0.67			5	Margaret Fanning – Patricia Terrell	50.22

### Friday Evening Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C		Pct
3.67	1	1		David Miller – James Thomas	69.91
2.75	2			Frank Hacker – Phil Sharpsteen	61.81
2.19	3	2		Janet Fidelman – Judie Muggia	61.57
1.55	4			Judy Dubay – William Dubay	59.26
1.64	5	3		Patricia Nestork – Lynn Carew	59.03
0.92	6			Kathleen Farrell – Judith Donald	56.94
1.38		4		Ruth Stokes – Jon Stokes	54.40
0.97		5		Layton Davis – Bryant Jones	54.17
1.77		6	1	Kenneth Cestone – Joseph Morein	53.47
1.33			2	Todd Kerekes – Patricia Kerekes	52.78
1.00			3	John Newton – Sally Newton	51.39
0.82			4	Patricia Terrell – Margaret Fanning	49.54

### Saturday Morning Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C		Pct
6.00	1			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	70.57
4.81	2	1		Jay Friedenson – Alan Wertheimer	65.11
3.38	3			Judith Donald – Kathleen Farrell	61.64
3.61	4	2		Albert Muggia – Rich Stevens	60.64
2.10	5			Judy Dubay – William Dubay	60.00
2.71	6	3		James Thomas – David Miller	59.07
2.03		4		Donald Campbell – Jan Gisholt	57.48
3.30		5	1	Peter Murzda – Lawrence Young	56.65
2.48		6	2	John Newton – Sally Newton	55.99
1.86			3	Margaret Winslow – Sandra Walters	55.61
1.39			4	Patricia Tobin – Diana Thompson	54.20
1.04			5	Joseph Morein – Inge Cassidy	53.74
0.80			6	Margaret Nadeau – Gilbert Nadeau	53.66

### Saturday Morning Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C		Pct
4.83	1	1	1	Carol Weaver – Carolyn Accardi	60.68
3.62	2	2	2	John Newton – Sally Newton	59.48
2.72	3	3		Albert Muggia – Rich Stevens	59.26
2.04	4			Kathleen Farrell – Judith Donald	58.06
1.66	5	4		Lynn Carew – Patricia Nestork	57.41
1.25	6	5		Bonnie Clouser – Mary Tierney	56.97
0.93		6		Janet Fidelman – Judie Muggia	56.64
1.46			3	Anne McCune – Arlene Arellano	55.77
1.09			4	Terry Bentley – Joan Dobert	55.66
0.91			5	Peter Murzda – Lawrence Young	54.68
0.61			6	John Conova – Karen Kristainsen	54.03

### Sunday Swiss Teams

MP	A	B	C		Score
5.75	1			Wayne Hersey – Judith Donald June Dorion – Courtney Nelson	89
4.37	2	1	1	John Conova – Karen Kristiansen John Newton – Sally Newton	85
3.23	3			Rudolph Polli – Fred Donald Jr Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	73
3.28	4	2	2	Jenny Bell – Michael Bell Richard Clark – George Malek	69
2.46	5	3	3	Donald Campbell – Jan Gisholt Josephine Machera – Israel Perlman	67
1.84		4		Jay Friedenson – Ruth Stokes Jon Stokes – Alan Wertheimer	66

## Vermont On The Tournament Trail

Many Vermonters have had success (10 or more points) at the Memphis Nationals or at regional tournaments. Here is a list. Sorry for any inadvertent omissions

#### Memphis Nationals:

Ellie Hanlon	37.08	Allan Graves	28.93	Sandra Hammer	23.85
Courtney Nelson	23.85	Mary Savko	21.45	Andy Avery	16.12

#### Orlando:

Allan Graves	156.94	Ellie Hanlon	42.42	Mary Savko	41.16
Elizabeth Von Riesenfelder	14.17				

#### Bermuda:

Allan Graves 28.77

#### Myrtle Beach:

J Peter Tripp 39.14      Penny Lane 39.14

#### Palmetto:

Frank Hacker	50.80	Ellie Hanlon	41.26	Mary Savko	41.26
Rhoda Chickering	14.84	Sandy Desilets	14.84		

#### Fort Lauderdale:

Allan Graves	60.60	Mary Savko	11.56	Ellie Hanlon	11.56
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**Gatlinburg:**

Wayne Hersey	40.13	Don Sondergeld	32.42	Stan Rosenthal	29.49
Ruth Stokes	28.67	Jay Friedenson	28.67	Alan Wertheimer	28.67
Penny Lane	28.41	J Peter Tripp	28.41		

**Hyannis:**

Andy Avery	12.21	June Dorion	10.21	Wayne Hersey	10.21
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**Birmingham:**

Allan Graves	80.90
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**Raleigh:**

Penny Lane	21.09	J Peter Tripp	21.09
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**Palm Beach Gardens:**

Allan Graves	96.66	Mary Savko	26.67	Ellie Hanlon	26.67
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**Saratoga Springs:**

Ellie Hanlon	67.99	Mary Savko	67.99	Frank Hacker	61.19
Phil Sharpsteen	61.19	Layton Davis	26.31	Wayne Hersey	15.41
June Dorion	15.41				

**Sturbridge:**

Rhoda Chickering	17.00	Sandy Desilets	17.00
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**Palm Beach Gardens:**

Allan Graves	95.53	Ellie Hanlon	41.36	Mary Savko	40.22
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## **New England STAC**

During the last week of June, 7 of the 8 New England units (not Connecticut) participated in a STAC – **Sectional Tournament at Clubs.** Participants had the opportunity to win silver points without leaving their home club. There were morning, afternoon and evening events on Monday through Friday and afternoon events on Saturday and Sunday.

Each participating club contributed a section to the overall event. If there were 10 clubs participating, the event consisted of 10 sections. As in a normal sectional event, there were master points awarded for placings in your section (that is, for placings at your local club). In addition, the top percentage scorers in the entire New England field received over all awards.

Many Vermont clubs participated in the STAC at their usual club game times. Some Vermonters did very well with several achieving placings in the overall standings. The star of the show had to be **June Dorion** of Fair Haven who achieved a first and a second overall Playing at the Manchester and the Mountains club June and partner, Wayne Hersey, came in first overall in the Monday afternoon game. Playing at the same club on Friday afternoon, June and partner, former Vermonter Jean Seward, came in second overall. The following Vermonters won more than 10 points

June Dorion      24.05                      Wayne Hersey      20.07                      Mike Farrell      10.42

## Change to Table Talk

For many years the final pages of Table Talk have been sectional flyers and a page we used for the recipient address. We shall no longer include these pages. Our Vermont unit #175 will send flyers separately. Of course, we no longer need the recipient address page, since we have discontinued distribution of paper copies.

## Vermont Summer Sectional

Holiday Inn, Rutland VT  
July 6-8, 2012

### Friday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C		Pct
4.17	1			Jean Seward – Jane Laudenslager	63.94
3.21	2	1	1	John Newton – Sally Newton	63.30
2.35	3			Patricia DiVincenzo – Kathleen Farrell	62.67
1.76	4			Fred Donald – Judie Donald	62.37
1.32	5			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	62.34
2.41	6	2		Lynn Carew – Pat Nestork	60.72
1.81		3		Abraham Brown – Jean Brown	55.61
1.35		4		Irene Vignoe – Patricia Williams	54.49
1.59		5	2	Dennis Newman – John Webber	52.06
1.19		6	3	Burton Honig – Naomi Honig	50.48
0.89			4	Dulany Bennett – Deirdre Ellerson	47.60
0.67			5	Michael McDonald – Tom Floyd	47.48

### Friday Evening Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C		Pct
3.83	1			June Dorion – Wayne Hersey	66.09
2.89	2			Ellie Hanlon – Mary Savko	65.30
2.77	3	1	1	Sandy Desilets – Rhoda Chickering	61.18
2.08	4	2		Lynn Carew – Pat Nestork	59.70
1.56	5	3		Sharra Canan – Howard Canan	58.28
0.91	6			Janet Laudenslager – Jean Seward	55.15
1.41		4	2	Ken Kaleita – Linda Kaleita	53.74
0.88		5		Bonnie Clouser – Mary Tierney	53.25
1.06			3	Linda Baker – Judith Ward	52.35
0.79			4	Deirdre Ellerson – Dulany Bennett	49.69

### Saturday Morning Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C		Pct
5.33	1			Vincent Grande – Bob Gorsey	66.33
4.00	2			Maryse Hambrick – Sarko Kassabian	65.03
3.00	3			Fred Donald – Michael Farrell	61.36
2.67	4			Ellie Hanlon – Mary Savko	61.29
1.87	5			Sonja Smith – David Rock	60.32
1.34	6			Bryant Jones – Burl Ives	58.02
3.64		1	1	John Conova – Karen Kristiansen	57.83
2.73		2	2	Kenneth Kaleita – Linda Kaleita	57.50
2.05		3	3	Burton Honig – Naomi Honig	56.57
1.54		4		Ed Midgley – Laura Midgley	54.39
1.15		5	4	Ann Bottelli – Richard Bottelli	53.10
0.95		6		Michael Borushok – Camille Villeneuve	52.28
0.78			5	Sandra Patack – Judie Mayer	52.14
0.59			6	Sally Newton – John Newton	50.44

### Saturday Morning Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C		Pct
4.83	1			June Dorion – Don Campbell	62.03
3.62	2			Vincent Grande – Bob Gorsey	60.78
2.72	3			Wayne Hersey – Jackie Kimel	59.57
2.04	4			David Rock – Sonja Smith	59.04
2.42	5			Frank Hacker – Phil Sharpsteen	57.24
1.69	6			Terri Verret – Pierre Daigneault	57.13
3.21		1	1	Israel Perlman – Shirley Perlman	55.12
2.41		2		James Thomas – Pierce Smith	54.05
1.81		3		Abraham Brown – Jean Brown	53.80
1.35		4		Camille Villeneuve – Michael Borushok	53.40
1.02		5		Bonnie Clouser – Mary Tierney	53.36
1.68		6	2	Karen Kristiansen – John Conova	53.22
1.26			3	Michael McDonald – Tom Floyd	53.12

0.95		4	Sara Hoy – Mary-Eliz Fitzgerald	52.93
0.71		5	John Newton – Sally Newton	52.85

### Sunday Swiss Teams

MP	A	B	C		Score
6.75	1			Michael Farrell – Gerald DiVincenzo Kathleen Farrell – Patricia DiVincenzo	114
5.06	2			Mary Savko – Ellie Hanlon Vincent Grande – Bob Gorse	109
3.80	3			Maryse Hambrick – Sarko Kassabian Terri Verret – Pierre Daigneault	102
2.85	4			Wayne Burt – Ronald Mak Arthur Giovannangeli – Lawrence Cheetham	99
2.25	5			Jean Seward – Janet Lautenslager Wayne Hersey – June Dorion	93
4.15		1		Bonnie Clouser – Ruth Stokes Jon Stokes – Mary Tierney	85
3.11		2	1	John Conova – Karen Kristiansen John Newton – Sally Newton	75
2.04		3/4		Pierce Smith – Michael Borushok Camille Villeneuve – James Thomas	70
2.25		3/4	2	Michael McDonald – Tom Floyd Lisa Giroux – Barbara Barrette	70
1.69			3	Ann Bottelli – Richard Bottelli John Nelson – Linda Nelson	65

### Tiernan Trophy Race

Every year the Vermont Bridge Association awards the Tiernan Trophy to the Vermont player who wins the most master points in the 4 Vermont Sectional Tournaments. We have held 2 of our 4 tournaments. Here are the leaders at the half way point. As usual, I apologize for any errors or inadvertent omissions.

1.	Phil Sharpsteen	22.48	6.	Kathy Farrell	18.24
1.	Frank Hacker	22.48	7.	Wayne Hersey	17.52
3.	Sally Newton	22.30	8.	John Conova	15.83
3.	John Newton	22.30	8.	Karen Kristiansen	15.83
5.	June Dorion	18.37	10.	Judie Donald	15.69

### Aborn Trophy Race

Every Year the Vermont Bridge Association awards the Aborn Trophy to the Vermont player who starts the year as a non-life master and wins the most master points in the 4 Vermont Sectional Tournaments. We have held 2 of our 4 tournaments. Here are the leaders at the half way point. As usual, I apologize for any errors or inadvertent omissions.



1.	Karen Kristiansen	15.83	5.	Jenny Bell	3.93
2.	Israel Perlman	8.28	7.	Pat Williams	3.84
3.	Linda Kaleita	5.73	8.	Shirley Perlman	3.49
3.	Kenneth Kaleita	5.73	9.	Joseph Morein	3.24
5.	Mike Bell	3.93	10.	Josephine Machera	3.12

## Managing Entries

By Frank Hacker

Board 2 of the June 27 Wednesday morning STAC provided an interesting test of Declarer's ingenuity. North in fourth seat opened the bidding with 2C. Partner responded 2D. North rebid 2NT. South rebid 3H transferring to spades. North complied and South's 3NT call ended the bidding. East led the 10 of hearts, apparently a short suit lead as West encouraged with the 9. Now what?

### North

S KJ  
H KQJ  
D AJ75  
C AK86

### South

S A10962  
H 763  
D 106  
C J102

East appears to have 2 hearts and West 5 hearts. The rest of the distribution seems uncertain. Dummy's spade suit has no iron-clad outside entry. The opponents, when they get in, will likely continue with the ace and another heart establishing 2 winners (enough to set your contract if you conjure up 2 other losers outside of the heart suit). Should you take the spade finesse? Should you play for the drop of the queen of spades, planning to continue with a third round to establish your spades when the queen fails to drop? Maybe you should use your entry to take the club finesse when the queen fails to drop.

I believe the best play is to take the spade finesse, **BUT** to do so retaining the king in your hand. In other words, you should win the first heart trick and lead the jack of spades. There are three possibilities.

1. The jack may win the trick. If so, cash the king and lead a low club to the dummy. This guarantees 3 spade tricks, 3 club tricks, 2 heart tricks and 1 diamond trick and may well produce more if the queen of spades drops in the third round.

2. The jack may get covered. If so, come back to your king of spades and lead a low club to the dummy. This guarantees 5 spade tricks (unless spades are 5-1), 3 club tricks, 2 heart tricks and 1 diamond trick.

3. The jack may lose to the queen. The opponents will be better served by returning a diamond, but may well return hearts to clear the suit. If a diamond comes back, you'll have to duck, conceding a diamond trick. Whatever the opponents do, you will get in and lead the king of spades, overtaking with the ace in dummy. You can run your spades and take the club finesse. This will guarantee 4 spade tricks (unless spades are 5-1), 3 or 4 club tricks, 2 heart tricks and 1 diamond trick. If the opponents have returned a diamond on winning the spade queen, you'll have to win the club finesse to actually get 10 tricks.

I have presented the entire hand below. As you can see, both black queens drop and you can make 11 tricks just by playing off your aces and kings. Maybe that actually is the best line of play, but, of course, you have to make your decisions fairly quickly and without looking at all 4 hands. I have also presented an alternative hand supporting my suggested line of play, where just banging down your top cards won't work. By the way, the suggested line of play actually produced 11 tricks at the table.

**Actual Hand**

		<b><u>North</u></b>			<b><u>East</u></b>	
		S	KJ		S	8754
		H	KQJ		H	108
		D	AJ75		D	KQ8
		C	AK86		C	9743
<b><u>West</u></b>		<b><u>South</u></b>				
S	Q3	S	A10962			
H	A9542	H	763			
D	9432	D	106			
C	Q5	C	J102			

### Alternative Hand

		<u>North</u>				<u>East</u>	
		S	KJ			S	Q875
		H	KQJ			H	108
		D	AJ75			D	Q832
		C	AK86			C	Q43
		<u>South</u>					
		S	A10962				
		H	763				
		D	106				
		C	J102				
<u>West</u>							
S	43						
H	A9542						
D	K94						
C	Q95						

Please note that the 2 queens of clubs are intentional. You don't know who has it. If you cash the king and ace of spades and decide to knock out the queen of spades, West may have the queen of spades as an entry to his hearts. If you decide to take the club finesse instead, then East may have the queen. Guess wrong and you're in trouble.

## **So Many Finesses, So Little Time**

The editor would like to thank his friend Evelyn Mintzer of Des Moines, Iowa for the following hand.

		<u>North</u>				<u>East</u>	
		S	96			S	KJ754
		H	J1084			H	97
		D	A94			D	K3
		C	7543			C	J986
		<u>South</u>					
		S	A32				
		H	AK52				
		D	Q1075				
		C	AQ				
<u>West</u>							
S	Q108						
H	Q63						
D	J862						
C	K102						

Your contract is 4 Hearts. West leads the diamond 2. You duck in dummy. East wins the king and returns the 3. You play the 7 and West's jack forces dummy's ace.

How do you play this hand? What about the heart finesse? What about the club finesse?

Take a minute to think about it. If the heart finesse loses, East will get a diamond ruff. So it is better to play the two top hearts. (Maybe the Q of Hearts will drop).

After 2 rounds of hearts, you play your two top diamonds, and get rid of your 6 of spades. You follow this with the A of spades and a spade ruff.

To trump your second low spade you must return to your hand in clubs. Should you take the club finesse to avoid a possible club loser? No! If the finesse loses, West will cash his winning trump and you will be unable to trump your low spade.

Interesting hand! You make your contract, losing 1 heart, 1 club and 1 diamond. If you take either finesse you will go down.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

Aug. 4	Marilyn Hacker Memorial Pairs, Burlington Bridge Academy, Williston, VT – 10:30 AM, breakfast goodies at 10 – entry fee \$25
Aug. 6 - 12	CAN-AM Regional, Sheraton Airport Hotel, Montreal, QC
Aug. 27 – Sep. 2	New England Fiesta Regional, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Warwick, RI
Sep. 21 - 23	Vermont Foliage Sectional, Burlington Bridge Academy, Williston, VT
Sep. 29 -30	New Hampshire Fall Foliage Sectional, Lebanon College, Lebanon, NH
Oct. 3 -8	Ottawa Regional, Delta Ottawa City Centre Hotel, Ottawa, ON
Oct. 7	Vermont Bridge Association Annual Meeting and President's Pairs, Burlington Bridge Academy, Williston, VT -- 10:30 AM – entry fee \$14 for VBA members - \$14 is subsidized price for paid – up VBA members only – entry fee \$28 for non-members
Oct. 15 – 21	Southwest Florida Regional Tournament, Waldorf Astoria, Naples, FL
Oct. 22 – 28	District 3 Autumn Leaf Regional, Crowne Plaza Danbury, Danbury, CT
Oct. 26 – 28	Vermont Fall Sectional, Holiday Inn, Rutland, VT
Nov. 7 – 11	New England Master's Regional, Holiday Inn, Mansfield, MA
Nov. 22 – Dec. 2	ACBL Fall Nationals, San Francisco Marriott Marquis, San Francisco, CA