

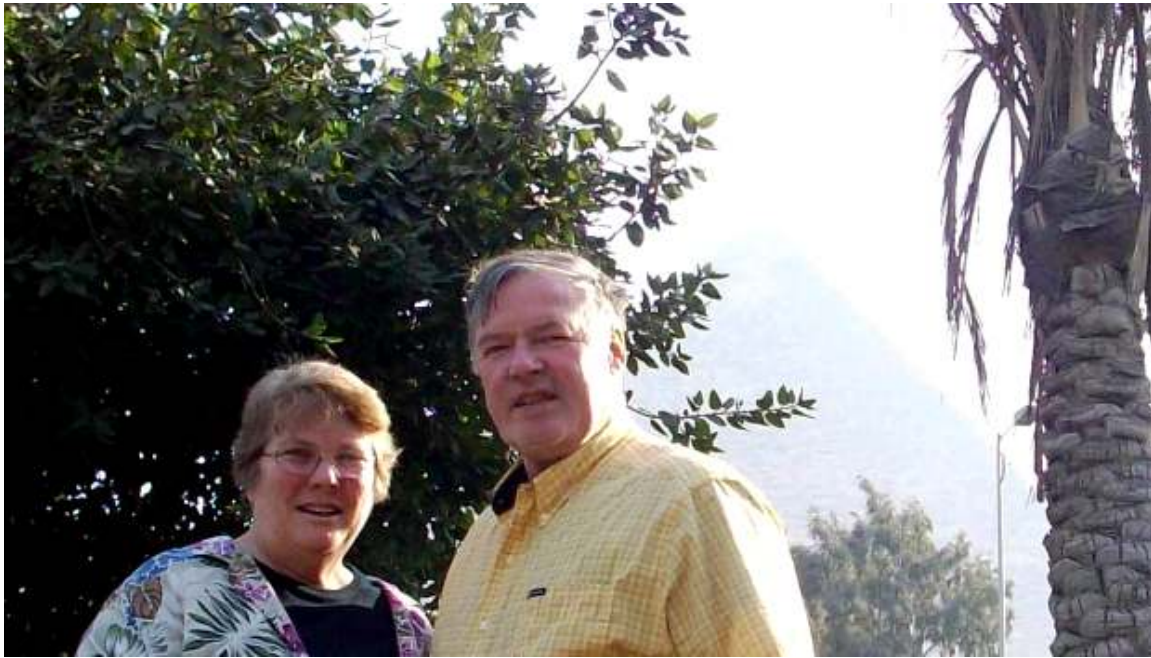
TABLE TALK

A publication of the Vermont Bridge Association
Editor: Frank Hacker

June 2009
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Connie and Jean-Guy Beliveau are the featured personalities of this issue.

The Great Pyramid of Giza, taken from Memphis shown below a long delayed trip!



Jean-Guy got introduced to whist at his Grandmother's farm on East Hill in North Troy overlooking Jay Peak, on Sunday afternoons after church. First we had traditional Québec music with my father, Laurier, at the piano and two of my uncles, Lionel at the violin and Roger at the accordion. This was followed by a scrumptious meal and then whist. My father who had lived in Montreal and presumably played cards there told me to hold my cards upside down so that people behind me could not see my cards and I still do!

We started playing bridge together at UVM with fraternity brother Mogie Lee and Lee Ann and lots of beer at the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity house on Main St. We played a one club/A club opening being light and strong respectively. We also played a sliding Gerber to ask for kings. Jean-Guy and his engineering roommate Dick Corneille were the house pitch champions two years in the running, beating out the 3rd floor not so serious students.

During Connie's last year at UVM we played with Jean-Guy's parents on Sunday afternoon, 500, a bidding game with a joker and the two jacks of the same color followed by A, K etc. with the ranks of the suits, spades, clubs, diamonds and hearts, color jacks higher than the aces Hitting the table hard was the signal to lead back that suit. Jean-Guy learned this from being allowed to play with the adults. I still remember the time we tried to teach someone bridge in one evening, starting out with whist and then outlining 4 differences, bidding, scoring, one hand exposed and having no trump as an option. Unfortunately Joan burst

out crying when I insisted on a particular point, and my bridge teaching came to a sudden end!

We continued to play 'kitchen' bridge in Princeton with other Grad students, as well as canasta with our landlords Ray and Mary Echarvarria in Princeton, NJ. While at Columbia University, we found a couple to play with a nice apartment in Fort Lee overlooking the Hudson. Jean-Guy found the job posting for Sherbrooke, Quebec while working as a post-doc at Columbia U. His introduction to this northern metropolis was arriving by bus at two in the morning with the temp. at a chilly -20C and a twenty mile an hour wind and not a taxi in sight. We still moved there, as jobs were in short supply then as well.

Our bridge playing continued in Lenoxville, Que. Friday nights Al Edwards and Jean-Guy would play squash in the old Bishop College courts with no heat, then collect some pizza and beer and play bridge to the wee hours of the morning with Connie and Jennifer. Eventually we ended up playing with other couples, Frank and Ray Richardson who moved to Dawson Creek, BC and Ann and Wally Kasowski. Both couples had 4 children, so after putting all eight urchins to bed we would play until we were all exhausted.

Jean-Guy started playing duplicate at this time. Connie went one time and with a director call for renegeing she never returned. At least not in Sherbrooke.

1985 brought us to UVM and bridge in the Greek Orthodox Church Hall and the Athena Club. We figured we could play together after seeing Fred and Judie Donald have a bidding misunderstanding and reaching 6 clubs. Connie doubled with AKxx of clubs. I can still hear them arguing! But they have doubled us more often than we they! Blanche and Paul Bonnette introduced us to the Shelburne Couples Bridge, which my brother Yvan and his wife had belonged to earlier, and we continue to play once a month with a very dedicated group of party bridge players. But duplicate is not their game. At long last we were first this year with some necessary help from Ann and Pete van Royen, our loyal substitutes.

On our way to Life Master status we had wonderful trips to the nationals in San Diego, where the first person we met was Barb Fitzgerald. We've had several team games in Las Vegas, Williamsburg, and Scranton with Barb and her partners. Along the way Jean-Guy, a structural engineer and Barb, a history buff found some real historic bridges to visit. The most recent trip with Barb was to Gatlinburg!

Connie has a trophy from the individual game in Boston, where her only motivation was to beat Jean-Guy at the bidding. He always overbids you know (not true). Sabbaticals have taken us to the second largest club in the world, Christchurch NZ (the largest is Auckland NZ on the north island). This city of about 100,000 had 4 sessions at once, 56 tables in play, and we qualified to play only at the Thursday night game. Before and after the game there was an open bar which did nothing to deter attendance. In Cote d'Ivoire we tried to play but there was only one other bridge player at that time. There was a game with 22 trump, Tarot I think, with up to ten players at a table. We never did get the hang of it, they kept changing the rules. We did learn cinquieme majeure, same as standard American in France.

Besides the BBA, local games have found us Mondays in Middlebury and more recently in St Albans, where we see two of our grandchildren, and Fridays in Montpelier, Saturdays in Lyndonville with summer games in North Hatley, Quebec on Wednesdays, and on occasion in Magog. We have yet to make the Barton Monday afternoon game, but hope to someday. When the Charlotte Senior Center opened its door Connie offered bridge sessions. From the start it was Monday afternoons and Thursday night. Both are still going strong with a Friday afternoon game as well. Dot Meyers now runs those games.

We both want to thank all the bridge players we have met over the years. Though we are in a friendly competition of wits, which causes us to overreact once in a while, we are still friends and continue to enjoy this very challenging game, and the interesting people who play it.

Editorial Comment: Table Talk has 2 new article contributors, Ed Schirmer and Jay Friedenson. If you would like to be a contributor, please send an email message to frhac@charter.net, so that we can discuss content, length, format and timing.

I have learned during the past few months that some Vermont Bridge Association members believe they are obligated to pay for Table Talk. This is not true. If you are a VBA member you are entitled to receive Table Talk as a perquisite of membership. We greatly appreciate contributions, as paper, printing, postage, etc. are quite costly. Still, contributions are strictly voluntary. Patronage is not required. If you are a VBA member and have not been receiving Table Talk, the problem is in circulation, not your failure to pay.

To help with costs, we have been suggesting that members switch to electronic distribution. We now have close to 50 names on our electronic distribution list. The list has not grown much lately. If you would like to get on the ed list, please send a message to my email address (shown above). Electronic subscribers usually get Table Talk earlier than paper subscribers. They also receive the featured personality picture in color.

Table Talk is the newsletter for all of Vermont. I make an effort to have featured personalities from all parts of the state. I am very much concerned about the possibility of a northern bias. I live in Barre and play mostly in Burlington or Montpelier. Quite naturally, I report on special events from clubs where I can easily come by the needed information. I am quite willing to include in "Coming Attractions" special events from Rutland, Manchester or any other part of the state, I am also willing to report results, but I must rely on club managers to provide me the information I need.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Phil Sharpsteen

I am using this opportunity to encourage all club managers to help promote bridge in our unit. The Unit Board stands ready to help you in this endeavor.

First, you can offer teaching programs to find new players and help current players at your club improve their game. Also, a short lecture on a bridge technique can be offered 15 minutes before your club game.

Second, you can offer special games at your club (e.g. STAC, NAOP, Jr. Fund, charity and unit rated to name a few) to give your players new interesting opportunities.

Finally, you should help promote the 0 to 99 games we offer at our four Vermont sectionals. This required some effort to 'get the players out' but newer players really enjoy playing in their own game at these tournaments. Our next sectional is July 10th through 12th at the American Legion Hall in Castleton. We are offering four of these events: Friday at 1:30 and 7:30 and Saturday at 10AM and 3PM. Please make the effort to get your newer players to give one or more of these sessions a try.

VERMONT SUGAR TIME SECTIONAL RESULTS

Burlington, VT

April 3-5, 2009

Friday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
4.00	1	1		Jay Friedenson – Alan Wertheimer	64.67
3.00	2			Phil Sharpsteen – Cliff Gordon	64.66
2.25	3			Wayne Hersey – June Dorion	61.47
1.75	4			Lynn Carew – Pat Nestork	57.45
1.81	5	2	1	Sally Newton – John Newton	55.55
0.95	6			Jackie Kimel – David Shaw	53.24
1.36		3	2	Julianna McAllister – Helen Lewis	52.79
1.02		4		Stanley Rosenthal – Gary Feingold	50.99
0.76		5		Teri Carpenter – V'Anne Desch	49.34
0.79			3	Mary Ellen McMahon – Catherine Earle	47.55

Friday Afternoon 0-100 Pairs

MP				Names	PCT
1.11		1		Margie Berger – Lisa Logan	63.00
0.83		2		Carolyn Tassej – Ann Moore	57.00

Friday Evening Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
3.83	1	1		Paul Reardon – Kotze Toshev	66.67
2.87	2			Phil Sharpsteen – Cliff Gordon.	62.04
2.15	3			Wayne Hersey – June Dorion	61.81
1.62	4			John Conova – Pierce Smith	60.42
1.34	5			Lynn Carew – Pat Nestork	59.49
2.01	6	2	1	Sheila Long – Karen Kristiansen	58.10
1.51		3		Stanley Rosenthal – Gary Feingold	55.56
1.29		4	2	Luisa Chernyshov – Frances Wager	55.32
0.85		5		Joan Clark – Sally Warner	54.17
0.97		6	3	John Newton – Sally Newton	53.24
0.73			4	Julianna McAllister – Helen Lewis	51.39
0.54			5	Margie Berger – Jan Sibal	50.23

Saturday Morning Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
5.17	1			Phil Sharpsteen – Cliff Gordon	68.27
3.88	2			Wayne Hersey – June Dorion	66.35
2.91	3			Pierce Smith – John Conova	63.14

3.21	4	1		Stanley Rosenthal – Ruth Stokes	61.22
2.41	5	2		V'Anne Desch – Teri Carpenter	57.99
1.82	6	3	1	Sheila Long – Karen Kristiansen	57.85
1.35		4		Gary Feingold – Kotze Toshev	55.73
1.02		5		Patricia Earle – Gladys Rocheleau	55.55
1.37		6	2	Judith Ward – Suzanna Thurber	54.51
1.02			3	Lee Corbett – Ross Lieb-Lappen	52.72
0.77			4	Richard Clark – Pat Watson	52.61
0.64			5	Sally Newton – John Newton	50.48

Saturday Morning 0-100 Pairs

MP				Names	PCT
1.11	1			Arthur Aiken – Linda Aiken	64.00
0.83	2			Jody Petterson – Duncan Robb	57.00

Saturday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
4.50	1	1		Stanley Rosenthal – Gary Feingold	65.16
3.38	2			Wayne Hersey – June Dorion	62.85
2.53	3			Jackie Kimel – David Shaw	58.40
2.25	4	2	1	John Newton – Sally Newton	57.52
1.58	5			Phil Sharpsteen – Cliff Gordon	56.96
1.66	6	3		Jay Friedenson – Alan Wertheimer	56.58
1.24		4		Jon Stokes – Ruth Stokes	54.67
1.29		5	2	Julianna McAllister – Helen Lewis	54.13
0.71		6		Frank Reed – Edward Schirmer	53.00
0.97			3	Richard Clark – Pat Watson	52.21
0.73			4	Sheila Long – Karen Kristiansen	51.39
0.54			5	Judith Ward – Suzanna Thurber	50.37

Sunday Open Swiss Teams

MP	A	B	C	Names	SCORE
5.75	1			Jay Friedenson – Alan Wertheimer Lynn Carew – Pat Nestork	97
4.31	2			Edward Schirmer – Bryant Jones Barbara Fitzgerald – Frank Reed	71
3.23	3			Pierce Smith – Donald Campbell John Conova – Courtney Nelson	68
3.41	4	1		Claire Gardner – Roger Crean Agnes Kurtz – Thomas Kurtz	67
2.56	5	2	1	Arthur Aiken – Linda Aiken Jeannie Clermont – Barbara Buchanan	63
1.92		3		Ross Lieb-Lappen – Lee Corbett Art Keppelman – Jack Linn	57

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 2 tournaments down, we are at the half way point. Frequent trophy winner Phil Sharpsteen is leading, but he faces a stiff challenge from June Dorion and Wayne Hersey. Here are the top 10. Apologies to anyone I inadvertently omitted.

1.	Phil Sharpsteen	25.76	6.	Pat Nestork	12.99
2.	June Dorion	22.31	6.	Lynn Carew	12.99
2.	Wayne Hersey	22.31	8.	Cliff Gordon	12.62
4.	Jay Friedenson	16.54	9.	Frank Hacker	12.46
5.	Pierce Smith	14.00	10.	Sheila Long	12.30
			10.	Karen Kristiansen	12.30

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 2 tournaments down, we are at the half way point. Surprise! Surprise! Three time winners, Sally and John Newton, are not in the lead. That honor belongs to their frequent teammates, Sheila Long and Karen Kristiansen. Here are the top 10. Apologies to anyone I inadvertently omitted.

1.	Sheila Long	12.30	6.	Ross Lieb-Lappen	7.85
1.	Karen Kristiansen	12.30	7.	Richard Clark	7.02
3.	Sally Newton	11.87	8.	Lee Corbett	6.55
3.	John Newton	11.87	9.	Linda Aiken	6.38
5.	John Conova	11.15	9.	Arthur Aiken	6.38

ONCE IN A LIFETIME

by Phil Sharpsteen

This whimsical article deals with three 1NT opening bids I made 5 to 10 years ago with 16 HCP but off-shape distribution and the humorous stories this generated. I don't remember the specific hands any more-just the distribution. I also hope the statute of limitations has expired!

The **first** hand was 3-1-4-5 with the singleton Ace of hearts. Partner of course transferred with 2D and then put me in 4 hearts! This was not a success as trump divided badly (I didn't have enough!). This was the last time I tried this.

The **second** hand was 2-6-2-3. Now, I had never opened 1NT with a 5 card major, so why I got this bright idea remains a mystery! Partner raised to 3NT and all passed. I could not believe what happened next. Opening leader ask partner, "Could he have a 5 card major? This had **never** been asked before so why on **this** hand? My partner thought for a few

seconds and replied, “I don’t expect one.” When the defenders found that I had a 6 card major partway through the hand, they failed to find the humor. *Note from Frank:* Your faithful editor remembers this wonderful experience.

The **third** hand was 2-2-2-7. 1NT is clearly absurd. What happened next was equally absurd. My partner with 2-2-7-2 distribution decided to bid 2C Stayman! I thought of trying to cut my losses at this point by passing, but partner was an unpassed hand so I responded 2D. Partner now ended the auction by passing! I almost passed out but I recovered nicely when dummy hit!

Well, these three were all interesting and at least generated humorous ‘bridge stories’. I haven’t had the urge to do any of this since (and I am also trying to hold my cards more closely)! *Note from Frank:* Thank goodness to both!!

Lavinthal First Discards

by Ed Schirmer

You might wish to consider Lavinthal first discards when defending against no trump contracts, because you won’t waste a potential trick in your power suit.

Playing Lavinthal, your **FIRST** discard is from a suit of little or no interest. A low card asks partner to lead the lower ranking suit and a high card asks for a lead the higher ranking suit. That’s all there is to it.

	North		
	S	K43	
	H	K9643	
	D	76	
	C	K53	
West		East	
S	Q762	S	J108
H	AQ10	H	J2
D	J1052	D	83
C	J6	C	AQ10842
	South		
	S	A95	
	H	875	
	D	AKQ94	
	C	97	

All Vulnerable: South Dealer.

Bidding:	North	East	South	West
	1H	Pass	1D 1NT	Pass all pass

West led the 2 of spades. Declarer won the king in dummy to preserve his entry to the diamond suit. He then played three rounds of diamonds hoping that the suit would split. Not to be. East's first discard, the 2 of hearts, was Lavinthal. "Partner, please lead a club if you get in."

Declarer played his fourth diamond to establish another trick but west won the jack and tabled the jack of clubs. Declarer couldn't avoid six club losers and the ace of hearts; down 200 and a top for east/west.

Other defenders signaled with the eight of clubs on the third round of diamonds and gave up a valuable trick.

		North			
		S	Q105		
		H	Q92		
		D	AQ86		
		C	752		
West				East	
S	432			S	AKJ7
H	1043			H	J765
D	105			D	9432
C	K8643			C	Q
		South			
		S	986		
		H	AK8		
		D	KJ7		
		C	AJ109		

Vulnerable: North/South: Dealer: West

Bidding:	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
				Pass
	Pass	1D	1NT	Pass
	3NT	All pass		

East opened weak in third seat hoping to find partner with a major suit fit, but to no avail.

West led the 4 of clubs. Declarer took east's queen with the ace and played the jack of clubs to develop the ninth trick. West won and east discarded the 9 of diamonds, a Lavinthal discard asking for the lead of the higher ranking suit, (the 2 of diamonds would request a heart lead). West obliged with a spade to set the contract one trick. Those who signaled with the spade 7 gave declarer +600.

Check Lavinthal vs. no trump on the back of your convention card if you decide to use this defensive suit preference convention.

World Wide Bridge Contest

A world wide bridge competition took place on Friday evening June 5 and Saturday afternoon June 6. Clubs throughout the world participated in the two single session events. Vermonters participated on Friday night at the Apollo Bridge Club in Montpelier and on Saturday afternoon at the Burlington Bridge Academy. The results for those 2 games are given below. The masterpoint awards shown and the percentages are based on the results achieved locally. The world wide ranks are based on world wide matchpoints where each board has a matchpoint top of about 5,000, based on the actual number of times the board was played around the world. As you can see, the world wide ranks don't quite follow the local ranks. The ranks are based on those posted on the ecatsbridge.com website at the time I prepared this article. As of the time of this article, there were 5,251 pairs with results reported for Friday night and 5,246 pairs with results reported for Saturday afternoon.

Friday Night

MP	A	B	C	Names		WW Rank
3.00	1			Rudy Polli – Frank Hacker	62.82%	507
2.25	2	1		Layton Davis – Gerow Carlson	60.07	313
1.69	3			Judie Donald – Fred Donald	57.99	1,335
1.27	4			Mary Savko – Ellie Hanlon	56.60	695
0.83	5/6			Patricia DiVincenzo – Gerald DiVincenzo	53.13	1,704
0.83	5/6			Penny Lane – Peter Tripp	53.13	2,493
1.40		2		Ruth Stoke – Jon Stokes	52.43	1,267
1.05		3		Barbara Fitzgerald – Stan Fitts	50.35	2,818
1.73			1	Jenny Bell – Mike Bell	49.65	4,019
1.30			2	Richard Clark – Gordon Johnson	46.88	3,409

Saturday Afternoon

MP	A	B	C	Names		WW Rank
2.78	1/2			Judie Donald – Fred Donald	63.10%	157
2.78	1/2			June Dorion - Wayne Hersey	63.10	239
1.78	3			Mary Savko – Ellie Hanlon	62.20	298
1.34	4			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	59.82	299
1.11	5			Patricia DiVincenzo – Gerald DiVincenzo	58.04	1,773
2.11		1		Janine Gauthier – Katherine White	55.06	2,243
1.73		2	1	Vivienne Adair – Mark Adair	47.92	3,170
1.20		3		Doug Clark – Bill Hume	47.32	2,637
1.30		4	2	Barbara Unger – Richard Unger	47.02	1,980

VERMONT SPRING SECTIONAL RESULTS

Rutland, VT
May 22-24, 2009

Friday Afternoon Open Pairs

<u>MP</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>PCT</u>
4.67	1			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	65.71
3.07	2/3			Wayne Hersey – June Dorion	63.46
3.07	2/3			Melvin Marcus – Rena Lieberman	63.46
1.97	4			Tom Macbeth – Lloyd Arvedon	61.54
1.63	5			Rudolph Polli – James Thomas	60.90
1.11	6			Mark Teich – Gretchen Teich	59.62
2.95		1	1	Sheila Long – Karen Kristiansen	57.37
2.21		2	2	Elizabeth VonRiesenfelder – Wendy Baurmeister	56.57
1.66		3	3	John Nelson – Linda Nelson	54.49
1.24		4		Irene Vignoe – Patricia Williams	51.92
0.93		5	4	Edward Buttolph – Harold Smith	51.44
0.62		6/7		Alden Edwards – Jennifer Edwards	49.68
0.62		6/7	5	Sally Newton – John Newton	49.68

Friday Evening Open Pairs

<u>MP</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>PCT</u>
4.83	1			Wayne Hersey – June Dorion	66.44
3.62	2			Robert Donald – Diane Burger	59.26
2.72	3			Mark Teich – Gretchen Teich	58.33
2.04	4			Rena Lieberman – Melvin Marcus	58.10
1.34	5/6			Lewis Gamerman – William Hunter	56.94
2.81	5/6	1	1	John Newton – Sally Newton	56.94
2.11		2	2	Sheila Long – Karen Kristiansen	54.40
1.58		3	3	Noreen Snyder – Aurora Shea	53.94
1.19		4	4	John Conova – Elizabeth VonRiesenfelder	53.01
0.89		5		Jay Friedenson – Ruth Stokes	52.55
0.75		6	5	Rhoda Chickering – Sandy Desilets	52.08

Saturday Morning Open Pairs

<u>MP</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>PCT</u>
5.17	1			Kathleen Farrell – Patricia DiVincenzo	65.60
3.88	2	1		Albert Muggia – Rich Stevens	64.97
2.91	3			Mark Teich – Gretchen Teich	60.19
2.18	4			Tom Macbeth – Lloyd Arvedon	59.36
1.64	5			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	58.15
2.31	6	2	1	Catherine Loew – Martha St. Onge	56.94
1.73		3	2	Richard Clark – Gail McCain	55.79
1.30		4	3	Ross Lieb-Lappen – Shirley Lappen	55.51
1.07		5	4	Sally Newton – John Newton	54.86

0.80	6	Irene Vignoe – Patricia Williams	53.44
0.65	5	Harold Smith – Edward Buttolph	49.54

Saturday Afternoon Flight A Pairs

MP		Names	PCT
4.83	1	Gerald DiVincenzo – Michael Farrell	60.71
3.62	2	Tom Macbeth – Lloyd Arvedon	58.93
2.72	3	Pierce Smith – Stewart Mackeigan	55.65
1.79	4/5	Patricia Nestork – Lynn Carew	54.76
1.79	4/5	Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	54.76

Saturday Afternoon Flight B/C/D Pairs

MP	B	C	D	Names	PCT
2.95	1			Jay Friedenson – Ruth Stokes	67.13
2.21	2	1	1	Richard Clark – Gail McCain	62.50
1.66	3	2	2	Karen Kristiansen – Sheila Long	61.11
1.24	4			Reid Fleming – Rich Stevens	60.65
0.91	5/6	3/4		Rhoda Chickering – Sandy Desilets	57.41
0.91	5/6	3/4	3	Judith Ward – Linda Baker	57.41
0.58		5		John Conova – Kenneth Cestone	55.79
0.68			4	John Newton – Sally Newton	54.40

Sunday Open Swiss Teams

MP	A	B	C	Names	SCORE
7.25	1			Judy Dubay – William Dubay	
				Robert Neuhart – Walter Smith	99
5.44	2			Melvin Marcus – Lloyd Arvedon – Tom Macbeth	
				Rena Lieberman – William Hunter – Lewis Gamerman	97
3.19	3/5			Pierce Smith – Robert Donald	
				Diane Burger – Stewart Mackeigan	89
3.19	3/5			Kathleen Farrell – Michael Farrell	
				Patricia DiVincenzo – Gerald DiVincenzo	89
3.19	3/5			Rudolph Polli – Fred Donald	
				Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	89
2.07	6			Bryant Jones – James Thomas	
				Barbara Fitzgerald – Tom Osmer	85
3.61		1	1	Ross Lieb-Lappen – Lee Corbett	
				Joe Lappen – Shirley Lappen	74
2.71		2		Jeannie Clermont – Sheila Middleton	
				Arthur Aiken – Linda Aiken	73
2.03			2	Judith Ward – Linda Baker	
				Raymond Lopes – Susan Ransom	57

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:

Mark Benson
Bernard Long
Sandra Pomeroy

Paula Davidson
Israel Perlman

Hugh Lebaron
Robert Pomeroy

Club Master:

Susan Benson
Catherine Loew
Jody Petterson
Robert Sullivan

Art Keppelman
William Murray
Steven Sinding

Monica Knorr
Shirley Perlman
Patricia Spencer

Sectional Master:

Inge Cassidy
Barbara Romanoff

Lee Corbett
Roger Squire

Mildred Hill

Regional Master:

Arthur Aiken

Karen Kristiansen

Life Master

Carlos Galvan

Elizabeth VonRiesenfelder

Bronze Life Master:

Robert Chiabrandy

Martha Gazley

C Kirk Osterland

Silver Life Master:

C Edward Midgley

David Perrin

Rigmor Shawcross

Gold Life Master

Patricia DiVincenzo

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A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION

by Jay Friedenson, edited by Ruth Stokes

Here is an interesting hand from a club game in Florida. My partner and I held the North/South cards. At another table, Ruth and Jon Stokes were East/West.

	North		
	S	QJ98	
	H	109	
	D	85	
	C	108542	
West		East	
S	K1075432	S	void
H	void	H	AKJ762
D	AKQ6	D	J9742
C	A7	C	63
	South		
	S	A6	
	H	Q8543	
	D	103	
	C	KQJ9	

Dealer was East: Both vulnerable Matchpoint scoring.

Jon Stokes (East) opened 2H. Ruth, (West), responded 2N (Ogust). Jon's responded 3S (good suit and 9 points deemed to be a good hand). (Query? Is it double counting to treat A K J x x x a good suit and then with only 1 outside point- claim that you also have a good hand?). In any event Ruth jumped to 4S with her three loser hand leaving Jon declarer in spades with his void. Jon makes 4S tying with two other pairs for top with a + 620.

One of the other + 620 scores came my table where the my opponents reached 4S via the auction (2H - 4S). I do not know whether the other + 620 score was the result of a 4S bid or a 5 diamond bid making 6. No one in the East/West field bid 6D making 6 or 7.

As the cards lie, 6D, in fact 7D, can be made on any opening lead is by establishing West's spades.

The real fun came from contemplating alternative auctions. How can one reach the optimum 6D contract. We presented the problem to our home gurus Kathy Farrell and Fred Donald. Kathy and Fred got to 6D in a shot. Kathy opened 1H with East's hand. Fred responded 1S, Kathy bid 2D,

Fred bid 4D, Kathy bid 4H, Fred bid 5C, Kathy bid 5D and Fred bid 6D. Cliff Gordon said that he would not have opened the bidding with East's hand.

This hand raises a lot of questions about bidding styles. Is East's best opening bid 1H or 2H. Should East just pass? If East bids 1H and West responds 1S, should East rebid the 6 card heart suit or introduce the 5 card diamond suit? If East rebids the 6 card heart suit, should West rebid the 7 card spade suit or introduce the 4 card (strong) diamond suit? Obviously, the bidding proceeds differently depending on what choices are made. What if East opens 2H? Would 2S be forcing by West according to partnership agreement? If not – 3S would be forcing. But can you find the diamond fit starting at the 4 level in that sequence?

After exhausting ourselves discussing this hand we decided to ask some world class pros by e-mailing them. Did I say the real fun was in our contemplating how 6D should have been bid? Wrong! The real fun was in getting answers from almost all the pros we asked and being surprised and amazed by the disparity in their thinking and bidding on this hand. We are going to share that fun by relaying the advice we received:

Marty Bergen's comments were brief. He suggested the following auction, saying that he would not consider opening 2H (wow- that's a rather strong statement):

1H	1S
2H	3D
4D	5C
5H	6D

Note: Marty chose to open 1H and to rebid his heart suit rather than to introduce the diamond suit as Kathy did (guess he was embarrassed by his 1 heart opening). He suggested that responder bid his 4 card diamond suit instead of rebidding his 7 card spade suit.

Larry Cohen agreed with Marty in part and disagreed in part. He agreed with the opening bid of 1H and the response of 1S, but said that he was "a strong believer ... as is my partner, **David Berkowitz**" in bidding 2D (vs. 2H after the 1S bid). Larry was more detailed than Marty in his response and made the following additional comments:

"Some experts would indeed open 2H and that would make it more difficult. I suppose responder could bid 2S if forcing, then opener could bid 3D if natural – a good start. Even though 7D 'could' make, I think the goal is to reach 6D, which would be a nice result in any form of scoring. 7D requires decent splits and is not worth bidding, especially when just reaching 6D rates to be fantastic. Many (other) experts would prefer to rebid the good 6-card major, especially with a minimum hand (the Marty Bergen view). After 1H-1S-2D: I am not sure about 4D. I think responder might use 4th suit. However, I can live with 4D, setting trump. After that control bids are fine (4H by opener, 5C by responder). Still I see no perfect way to reach 7D".

Mel Colchamiro agreed with Marty on the 2H rebid (disagreeing with Larry). Mel said that he would do this despite the fact that he almost always bids his second suit. He would choose to rebid 2H because of the difference in suit quality. He said that his plan would be to bid diamonds next to show partner 6-4 (5). He said if he bid D now and rebid them later that would show (6) 5-5. Mel wasn't sure that 4D would be forcing over a 2D rebid. Further he said that 4H over 4D wouldn't necessarily show a control- it could be an attempt to show a 6th heart. Mel's route to 6D after an opening bid of 1H was:

1H 1S
 2H 3D
 4D 4S
 5D 6C
 6D

Hello! That's a different route than anyone else has suggested (so far!).

I asked Mel how the bidding should go if opener opened 2H (vs. 1H).
 His answer: If 2S over 2H is forcing,

2H 2S
 3D 6D

If 2S over 2H is not forcing –

2H 3S
 4D 6D

The following are **Eddie Kantar**'s comments:

“This would be a tough hand to get to 7D. Nor would I want to be there. Getting to 6D should be more than enough. There is such a thing as suits (hearts or diamonds) breaking badly, you know. Some slack has to be given. I'm in a quandary as to how to handle the red suited hand once I have decided to open. No way would I ever open 2H. It is too strong and far too distributional for that. I guess I would settle for 1H. After 1S I would rebid 2D, though 2H is tempting. If partner leaps to 4D, I'd try 4H, but over 5C I wouldn't dream of bidding 5S. I would probably rebid a cowardly 5D putting all the pressure on poor partner to bid six. All in all a very cowardly showing by me. Good bidding hand. Eddie”.

The following is from **Marilyn Hemenway**:

“I would open 2H as I'm not in the habit of opening hands at the one level with only nine HCPs (call me old fashioned). But I also play my weak 2 bids as very constructive. After that I would expect the auction to go something like this:

2H 2S
 3D 4C (in order to force)
 4D 6D (and unfortunately that would likely end the auction).”

“While I wouldn't even consider opening the hand with 1H, I would think that anybody who does would certainly rebid 2H and not 2D. So unless responder (with the AKQx) bids diamonds at some point the suit will get lost. One of the problems with opening so light (I consider 1H to be a very light opening bid) is that you have to drag your feet thereafter. Of course these are just my opinions and there are many more out there and many of them are quite valid.”

The last weigh-in was from **Mike Lawrence**.

“Hi Jay, Normally I do not have the time to answer a question as extended as this one. But it is interesting, so here goes. The decision to open or not open the East hand is not easy. I have

found that opening is OK if you find a fit and (a big if) if the opponents are silent. The last thing you want is to have the opponents bidding along with you and to hear your partner double some number of spades for penalty. This does happen and it can be disturbing. I want to open it but suspect that it will cause our partnership some problems. If I did open, 2H is a sane choice, but again, the hand has a void and is a super hand for diamonds and to a tiny extent, clubs. Bid 2H at your risk. If I did open 1H, the bidding would go:

1H	1S	
2H	3D	Mike agrees with the 2H rebid by opener “This is the only logical second bid for responder” (Holy Cow! Is it possible that Mike, Mel and Marty have agreed on something. It is interesting to note that, after a 2H rebid, none of the experts would have preferred to rebid the 7 card spade over introducing the strong 4 card diamond suit).
suit		
4D		East is concerned that West may be bidding 3D on the way to making some kind of forcing spade bid.
	5C	Easy enough
5D		The spade void is not a good sign necessarily. And bidding 5H gets the partnership to at least 6D which East may not wish to do. Also, East would like a high diamond honor. At this point, East should be worrying which means that his AKJ of hearts won’t come into play as solid values East is bidding with an effective five points or so.

6D

I think that if East opens this tasty dog, he has to back off at some time. As it is, 6D is high enough in principle. West tentatively has to ruff two hearts and a club and that leaves declarer needing the diamonds to behave.

If I opened the East hand and got to and made six diamonds with an overtrick, I would be very pleased.

Hopes this helps.

Mike”

Author’s note: I sincerely appreciated Mike’s comments and I told him so but he never did say what his final choice would have been between pass, 1H or 2H. If he comes to Vermont, I won’t know whether to pair him with Jon, Kathy or Cliff.

Author’s Take-Aways

1. There are many ways to skin a cat.
2. Some cats never get skinned.
3. Reasonable people will differ.
4. World-class bridge players will differ.
5. Hind-sight is better than foresight.
6. Double dummy is easier than single dummy.
7. Get on the same wave-length as your partner.

8. Ruth and Jon were lucky to get their top by bidding and making 4S in Florida. Had they been at any given BBA game they would have gotten a bottom since everyone else in the field would most certainly have bid 6D making 7.

Charity Bridge Event

by Bob Smith

In honor of Irene Hunter's dedication to bridge and her long term support of the Southern Vermont Arts Center, *The Art of Bridge*, including lunch, bridge and a post-game wine and Vermont cheese tasting, will take place on July 27 at Yester House Gallery at the Southern Vermont Art Center.

Yester House, once the 28 room Georgian Revival mansion and centerpiece of the former Gertrude Divine Webster estate, was purchased as the permanent home for the Southern Vermont Artists, the forerunner of today's Southern Vermont Arts Center, in 1951. Placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1988, Yester House Gallery now houses the Southern Vermont Art Center's administrative offices and its major annual and invitational exhibitions; The mansion's former entrance foyer, salons, bed chambers and sitting room now comprise ten beautiful galleries featuring for sale the art of more than 600 artists. The Yester House Gallery will be closed on July 27 to the general public, but attending bridge players will be welcome to browse through the entire gallery and purchase at a special 12% discount.

The sanctioned charity Duplicate or Chicago rubber bridge tournament will be rated with black points and proceeds will benefit the Southern Vermont Arts Center. Registration starts at 12:00 noon. Lunch will be from 12:30 PM to 1:15 PM, with the tournament running from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM. A wine and Vermont cheese tasting will follow from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM.

\$50	Entry fee
\$100	Patron
\$500	Sponsor

It is important to note that the purpose of the event is to raise funds for the Southern Vermont Arts Center. Since bridge is a highly skilled art, duplicate players from far and away are invited to attend, demonstrate the art of bridge and generously contribute to this very deserving cause.

Please call Robert H. Smith, if you have any questions concerning bridge or call (802) 362-1405 for registration or arts center information.

The *Art of Bridge* promises to be a great bridge and art day. Hope to see you at the table!

Robert H. Smith Director (802) 362-4224

Junior Fund Game

Some years back the Norwich, VT duplicate bridge club moved a few miles away to its current location in Hanover, NH. Many of us still think of the Norwich DBC as a Vermont club. Some border members (for example from Plainfield NH) are actually members of the Vermont unit. On May 15, the Norwich DBC held and ACBL Junior Fund game. Here are the over all results.

<u>MP</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>PCT</u>
3.50	1	1		Elinor Horne – David Jenkins	71.30
2.30	2/3			Agnes Kurtz – Thomas Kurtz	66.20
2.30	2/3			Rudy Polli – Frank Hacker	66.20
1.48	4			Jesse Stalker – Bruce Downing	65.97
1.90	5	2		Susan Crane – Linda Tober	63.89
0.88	6			Ruth Horner – Craig Heim	58.56
1.42		3		Ben Hanamoto – Rose Hanamoto	54.63
1.40		4	1	Nancy Patton – Renate Schmidt	50.46
1.05		5	2	Pat Eastman – Ann Bradley	50.00
0.79			3	Stephanie Stringos – June Morgan	48.15

Let This Be A Lesson To You

by Frank Hacker

The ACBL Senior Pairs took place on Monday, February 23. I played in this game with Kathy Farrell at the McGregor Point Bridge Club in Fort Myers, Florida. I present below for your entertainment deal 21.

		North			
		S	73		
		H	K1042		
		D	A		
		C	KQ8762		
West				East	
S	AQ2			S	J98654
H	A76			H	J9
D	KQ742			D	J83
C	109			C	63
		South			
		S	K10		
		H	Q853		
		D	10965		
		C	A43		

The official handout suggested 2H as the appropriate final contract for North/South. Kathy and I are aggressive and, after an auction that included a takeout double by West, we came to rest at 4H.

The opening lead was the king of diamonds. With all the cards in view, it's easy to see that declarer can take 11 tricks. Maybe the final contract wasn't so aggressive after all.

Back to reality. It's easy to visualize the following. After winning the diamond ace, declarer leads a heart from dummy to his queen and West's ace. Declarer ruffs the diamond return in dummy and leads the king of hearts. This trump play may concede an unnecessary trump trick to West's jack, but gives the best chance to keep East from gaining the lead for the killer spade shift. As the cards lie, the jack of hearts drops and declarer can draw the last trump and run dummy's clubs.

Not so fast!! There is an alternate reality. West ducked the queen of hearts. Placing the ace with East, I led a heart to the 10 and East's jack. Back came a spade and the defense took 4 tricks. There's nothing to do in situations like this, except to congratulate West on a good play.

Would you have found the killing defense?

Vermont On The Tournament Trail

Many Vermonters have done well (10 points or more) recently at the Houston 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>Houston Nationals:</u>	Don Sondergeld	24.05	James Gordon	15.69
	Mary Savko	21.10	Ellie Hanlon	12.75
	Andy Avery	19.04		
<u>Newton:</u>	Wayne Hersey	10.25	June Dorion	10.25
<u>Bermuda:</u>	Ellie Hanlon	60.24	Mary Savko	60.24
	Allan Graves	25.56		
<u>Orlando:</u>	Allan Graves	136.30	Peter Bouyea	18.36
	Mary Savko	60.98	Linda Bouyea	18.36
	Ellie Hanlon	60.98	Sandy Desilets	14.77
	Don Sondergeld	18.55	Rhoda Chickering	14.77
<u>Cromwell:</u>	Anne Hoffman	16.98	Norma Jakominich	13.70
<u>New York:</u>	Elizabeth VonRiesenfelder		11.12	
<u>Toronto:</u>	Anne Hoffman	23.27		
<u>Sarasota:</u>	Mary Savko	83.05	Ellie Hanlon	83.05

<u>Gatlinburg:</u>	Phil Sharpsteen	75.05	Sally Newton	26.88
	Frank Hacker	75.05	Karen Kristiansen	26.88
	Penny Lane	53.59	John Newton	26.88
	Peter Tripp	53.59	Jean-Guy Beliveau	14.85
	Wayne Hersey	44.75	Barbara Fitzgerald	14.85
	Sheila Long	26.88		
<u>Fort Lauderdale:</u>	Allan Graves	92.21	Mary Savko	47.33
	Ellie Hanlon	47.33		
<u>Cape Cod:</u>	James Gordon	21.34	Ruth Stokes	14.56
	Penny Lane	15.71	Jay Friedenson	14.56
	Peter Tripp	15.71		
<u>Oklahoma City:</u>	Ellie Hanlon	66.11	Mary Savko	66.11
<u>Quebec:</u>	James Gordon	40.29		
<u>Richmond:</u>	Penny Lane	31.94	Peter Tripp	31.94
<u>Palm Beach:</u>	Ellie Hanlon	41.64	Mary Savko	41.64

Coming Attractions:

June 24-28	NE Summer Regional/Sturbridge Host Hotel/Sturbridge, MA
June 30-July 5	CAN-AT Regional/Fredericton Inn/Fredericton NB
July 10-12	VT summer Sectional/American Legion Hall/Castleton VT
July 23-August 2	Summer Nationals/Marriott Wardman Park/ Washington DC
August 8	Marilyn S. Hacker Memorial Pairs/Burlington Bridge Academy/ South Burlington VT
August 10-16	CAN-AM Regional/Hilton Montreal Airport/Montreal QC
August 29-30	New Hampshire Sectional/American Legion Hall/White River Junction VT
September 2-7	NE Fiesta Regional/Radisson Hotel/Nashua NH
Oct. 30-Nov 1	VT fall Sectional/Holiday Inn/Rutland VT
Nov. 26-Dec. 6	Fall Nationals/Manchester Grand Hyatt/San Diego CA

VERMONT SUMMER SECTIONAL

July 10-12, 2009

American Legion Hall, Rte 4A, Castleton, VT

Sanction: S0907035

Schedule of events:

Friday July 10th

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

Saturday July 11th

10:00AM Open Pairs, Stratified
Newcomer Paris, Stratified
3:00PM Open Pairs, Stratiflighted Flight A and Flights B/C/D separate events
A/X (separate event) Flight A= 3000 to unlimited
Flight X = 0/3000 if entries permit
B = 750 to 1500
C = 300 to 750
D = 0 to 300

Sunday July 12th

10:30AM 1st session Open Swiss Teams, Stratified
0 to 300 Swiss Teams (1 session only)
3:00PM 2nd session Open Swiss Teams, Stratified

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: \$8 - \$1 additional for Non-ACBL members

Note: Price of Sunday sessions may be increased to accommodate subsidized
between session lunch

Vermont State Law - No smoking in public buildings and or the playing area

Director (&MC): 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
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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.