

# TABLE TALK

A publication of the Vermont Bridge Association  
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September, 2010  
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**Local girl makes good** --- Mary Savko is a life-long Vermonter. She now lives part of the year in Tequesta, Florida and part in Barre, Vermont. Mary has just become a platinum life master (10,000 master points). That's a lot of master points. If you won 300 per year for 30 years, you would still be 1,000 short. Here is Mary's story in her own words.

My life has always been an exciting one even though there certainly have been many bumps in the road along the way. I was born on a farm in Pittsford, VT to parents who were so different. My father read to us the Songs of Hiawatha as bedtime stories and my mother was intent on my being versed in the arts of piano, flute, ballet, acrobat, tap and any other kind of dance she could find. She also was the driving force behind my flute career which went on for about 40 years. I was so incredibly lucky that when I was 10 years old, she found out about the famous Moyses who had recently come to Brattleboro from Europe. Undaunted, she called them and asked for an interview with them for her

daughter, Mary, who played the flute. Louis Moyse said he would accept me if I would practice. My mother said that I would practice!! This led to 14 years of first flute with the Vermont Symphony, the VSSO wood wind quintet, teaching in Rutland, Castleton, Poultney, my home in Proctor, VT. and then in Williamstown, MA., where I moved with my second husband.

When I was about 14, my father and mother sat my brother, sister and me down to learn to play bridge. They had this card table cover that showed how you count points and bid basic things, and that was my first encounter with bridge. I loved it! My brother and sister finally refused to play any card game with me because they said I always had to win. Well, I'm sure that attitude helped me to keep going when I started duplicate and felt like the stupid kid on the block for a loooooong time. I started duplicate in a game in Rutland, Vermont about 1970. A friend of mine said we should try it because it was a "novice" game that night. Two of the "novices" who we started out against were Jackie Kimel's grandparents Hugo and Marie Melen. Now that was an eye opener into the world of duplicate bridge. I didn't even recognize the game I'd been playing. I remember the first hand I had to declare, I held my cards under the table because my hands were shaking so badly and I didn't want anyone to see how terrified I was! Of course we were bottom of the barrel for many weeks, but I was hooked. My early years of bridge in Vermont were wonderful with friends like Jackie, Bill Becker, Judie and Fred Donald (I don't think they were even married yet) Patty and Jerry DiVincenzo, my mentor Stuart Smith and Priscilla, Kathy and Michael Farrell, Ron and Molly Turnbull, Ed Dulli, Clayton Kinney and of course my father, Merle Macomber. I learned Rubber Bridge playing with Molly and Ron Turnbull and Ed Dulli. I also always lost about 3 bucks an evening! It was worth it though because it sharpened me up for opponents who were not my friends, and we all know that the ego can take a terrible bruising in this wonderful game. Thinking of that reminds me of where I really started to learn about Tournament Bridge. About 1983, I started playing in Schenectady, NY, in the Wednesday night Handicapped game. At that time every game you played was like you were at a tournament because of the high number of world class players in that area. There were Lynn Deas, Neil Chambers, Juanita Chambers, Norb Kremer, Larry Mori, the Blooms and so many others. I learned so much there about good bidding and playing habits from taking master classes with Lynn Deas and getting constant "tips" from fine players. They were always so helpful if one asked for their help. Now it seems like the big players are in Florida where Ellie and I get to learn some more about ego and humbling bridge because we have to play against them all the time. So exciting!!! Especially when it is your turn to beat them☺ Since about 2002, my regular partner and friend Ellie Hanlon has helped me to do this many times. I seem to remember that when we started playing together, I had about 4000 points and she had about 7,000. We sure have "cut a swath" along the way to getting 10,000 and 13,000 master points. However, it still remains a humbling game when you rack up a 32% game! As I'm writing this I'm also reminded of a poignant memory; Marilyn and Frank Hacker playing on teams with Renate Redfield and me when we both were still very green and inexperienced players. Thank you Frank and Marilyn.

***NOTE from Frank:** My recollection is that Marilyn and I were quite pleased that Mary and Renate would play with us.*

Gardening is another one of my passions. As Ellie can attest, I believe that the back yard in Florida is not there to have grass. The important thing is what spot we are going to dig up or enlarge for broccoli, tomatoes, herbs, eggplants, lettuce, beans, squash that always gets a disease and as many kinds of fruit trees as I can find. At this point we have three kinds of lemon tree, two kinds of lime, a red grapefruit, a fig tree named after Ellie's sister Nina because she is the only one we know who has even eaten a fig off her own tree, a mango tree and an avocado tree. In Vermont where we live with my daughter Valerie and her partner Lisa, we share a huge garden where I have to go at least twice a day to see what has come up since the day before. Ellie says I'm possessed with weeding and just poking around.

This article would not be complete without mentioning a very important passion to me, my family. I have three daughters, Rose, Valerie and Lorraine. My oldest daughter Rose I gave up for adoption in 1957 and in 1991, she found me and her sisters and her whole birth family. Our life was not complete until this happened and we are so grateful to have this chance to know and love her. I have 6 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. I AM A LUCKY, LUCKY WOMAN.

## **New Location for Burlington Bridge Club**

By Marti Gazley

Good news for members and friends of the Burlington Bridge Club! We have found a wonderful new location for the club at 156 Commerce Street in Williston. The space is as large as the current facility but laid out even better. We have access to four bathrooms and a large kitchen in addition to a smaller kitchen located in our space. The space is new and the lighting is excellent. The move was on September 24 and 25. Games began at the new location on Monday, September 27 at 7:00 PM.

Commerce St. is just a few blocks from Taft's Corners. It is actually closer for those of you who travel that way to get to the current club. Coming from the interstate and Route 2A, Commerce Street is the first left off Williston Road after the traffic light at Harvest Lane. Coming from Burlington, Commerce Street is the first right off Williston Road after the traffic light at Brownell Road. Number 156 is halfway down the block on the right. When parking, please use the side door into the building.

Special events in October include the President's Cup October 10 and Club Appreciation Week October 18-22. The President's Cup includes the Vermont Bridge Association annual meeting combined with two sessions of bridge and a meal in between, all for the price of \$14.00. Because the President's Cup is subsidized by the Vermont Bridge Association, you may get an email requesting food donations to accompany our traditional turkey dinner.

We hope you enjoy our beautiful new space.

## Scott Aborn

If you have not played bridge for at least 13 years, you would not have had the good fortune to know Scott Aborn. Scott was a highly skilled, much beloved player who succumbed to cancer in his mid 40s. Many of us know his name, because the Vermont Bridge Association has named its non life master trophy race in his memory. Scott served as Table Talk editor for a while. Phil Sharpsteen, our president, has found one of Scott's editorials, reproduced below.

### TABLE TALK FALL 1997 – EDITOR AS DECLARER

By Scott Aborn

One of the obligations of editing TABLE TALK is attending the quarterly meetings of the VERMONT ACBL Unit which take place during each of our Sectional Tournaments. It is an enlightening experience. The Unit Officers and directors of many of the clubs in Vermont spend a great deal of time and energy doing their best to make bridge in Vermont better for everyone. There are lengthy discussions about what is good, and occasionally, what needs improvement. While, for the most part, these individuals are top-notch players, their discussions and efforts are directed primarily at encouraging new and inexperienced players to try duplicate. More importantly, they devote a great deal of attention to making the duplicate experience an enjoyable one – especially for less skilled and less fanatic players.

Each of us has a role to play in encouraging the growth of duplicate bridge in Vermont. We all have friends who are bridge players, but who have never attended a duplicate event – we can invite them to be our partners – it's often easier to entice a person to play with an experienced player than to convince two newcomers to give it a try. More importantly, when new players appear at our games, we need to do everything we can (short of throwing the game in their favor!) to ensure that the game is an enjoyable experience for them.

The damage done by a single player having an unpleasant experience is multiplied far beyond that individual – he or she will tell other non-duplicate-playing friends and those friends will never give duplicate a try.

It is great to meet new players at our weekly games. The true reward, however, is when we see them return the following week – with a determination in their eyes that says “no more funny business: we came to win!”

Get involved with the efforts of the Unit Leadership and the management of your local club in encouraging new players to try duplicate. If we can each recruit one new player, we will all benefit from an increased vitality in the Vermont bridge community.

**Note from Phil:** This article first appeared in the October 1, 1997 issue of Table Talk. It was Scott Aborn's first issue as editor and the article is his. The article is timeless, one which we should all take to heart as we try to improve bridge in Vermont.

## Bill Becker Memorial Unit Game

On Thursday August 6, the Marble Valley Bridge Club held its annual game in memory of Bill Becker, long time mainstay of Rutland area bridge. The winners were

<b>MP</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Names</b>	<b>pct</b>	<b>.</b>
2.41	1			June Dorion – Wayne Hersey	67.86	
1.81	2	1	1	Mark Adair – Vivienne Adair	54.76	
1.19	3/4			Jean Seward – Pierce Smith	54.17	
1.19	3/4	2	2	Burt Honig – Naomi Honig	54.17	
0.84	5	3		Kent Mina – Harold Smith	53.27	
0.60		4		Ray Lopes – Susan Ransom	51.49	

## Marilyn Hacker Memorial Pairs

The eleventh annual Marilyn Hacker Memorial Pairs took place on Saturday, August 7 at the Burlington Bridge Academy in South Burlington, VT. The format was 2 sessions of bridge with the customary Bove's Restaurant lasagna dinner between sessions. Your Table Talk editor would like to thank the steering committee (Pat Nestork, June Silverman, Marty Gazley, Bonnie Clouser and Phil Sharpsteen) of the Burlington Bridge Academy for the labors of Hercules, as well as Jane Pilkenton and Peter Tripp for their culinary efforts. Thanks also to Jackie Kimel who didn't play, but came to help anyway. There were 14 tables for bridge, up slightly from 13.5 last year and 13 in 2008. The overall winners were

<b>MP</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Names</b>	<b>pct</b>	<b>.</b>
5.38	1			Ellie Hanlon – Mary Savko	387.81	
3.83	2			Rudy Polli – John Kimel.	370.62	
3.58	3	1		Jay Friedenson – Alan Wertheimer	363.42	
2.15	4			Tom Smith – Frank Hacker	362.54	
1.70	5			Kathy Farrell – Patricia DiVincenzo	355.31	
2.69	6	2		Stan Rosenthal – Kotze Toshev	346.19	
2.01		3		Bill Schiring – Nick Ecker Racz	338.50	
1.51		4		Pat Nestork – Bonnie Clouser	336.69	
1.19		5		Bryant Jones – Tom Osmer	323.31	
2.70		6	1	Ed Schirmer – Frank Reed	314.54	
2.03			2	Carla Klop – Anja Guignon	306.08	
1.52			3	Vivienne Adair – Mark Adair	297.69	
1.14			4	Gene Kazlow – Gary Feingold	292.62	
0.90			5	Nancy Madden – Eunice Grover	290.00	

**Here is another article by Mark Adair.** He has entertained us in a previous Table Talk with a story about his performance in the Nashua, NH, 2009 Gold Rush Pairs. We move forward to Mark's article about the Nashua 2010 Gold Rush Pairs. Mark and Vivienne had a huge game in

the first session and were actually leading the entire field at the halfway point. The first session proved that, “when you’re hot, you’re hot.” The second session proved that, “when you’re not, you’re not.” Still, they finished tied for 10<sup>th</sup>, a very creditable performance.

## **Grandis Pulsus Factus Est**

(“A Grand Slam Made:” what Caesar should have said)

By Mark Adair

We whose Bridge fortunes less often rise, than plunge, are told not to wallow in the mire of those many failures, but to enjoy the odd success, to turn our eyes away from the depressing slough of habitual defeat and gaze instead upon the rare, bracing image of victory. We are advised, that is, in the interest of mental hygiene, to remodel reality. Even if bridge is trying to send us a message, the bridge sages say, we should be ready to deny it, by grossly accentuating the positive.

The editor, in his generosity, is helping me implement this advice by giving me space to relish one of those fugitive successes.

In the morning session of the 2010 Nashua Regional Gold Rush Pairs game, Vivienne and I were playing uncharacteristically well, so the stakes were high. We confronted this deal at the last table:

	<b><u>North</u></b>	
	S QJ	
	H J9754	
	D J53	
	C J83	
		<b><u>East (Mark)</u></b>
		S 1074
		H AKQ2
		D AK
		C KQ102
		<b><u>South</u></b>
		S 832
		H 1086
		D Q92
		C 9765
	<b><u>West (Vivienne)</u></b>	
S	AK965	
H	3	
D	108764	
C	A3	

The bidding proceeded rapidly:

	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	1S	P	4NT <sup>1</sup>	P
	5D	P	5NT <sup>2</sup>	P
	6C	P	7NT	all pass

<sup>1</sup> “Let’s not get confused about trump.”

<sup>2</sup> “It’s bad form not to seem to be asking.”

LHO led the seven of clubs. I saw before me a dummy littered with losers. The Specter of Defeat took up its wonted position, hovering patiently above our table.

I have at least learned, in my six years of Bridge, to calmly survey, while actually in a panic, the grave situation, and to seek some line of play that, however improbable, might succeed, then to take that path and never look back.

I stared grimly at the porous spade suit. Could I cash all my winners and induce the opponents to throw off a crucial spade, maybe on my fourth club? They seemed too wily to fall for that, but what choice did I have?

By this point the true Bridge player would have envisioned a QJ doubleton in one of the opponent's hands, but given my mental insufficiency I could only conjure the thought—by which I mean a vague notion—of a spade Hail Mary.

So I cashed the AK diamonds, led the 2C to the Ace, the 3H back to my AKQ, won the KQ10 of clubs, held my breath and led the 4S to the Ace. The queen fell; I discarded the four and then, still unbreathing, called for the King. When the JS appeared I, notwithstanding the oxygen debt, had a brainstorm, or maybe dust devil, that unless I unloaded the 10, right then and there, all was lost. So I slid the ten beneath the King, led the nine, and Ave Maria, LHO's 8 came tumbling out and the lowly six and five gave us the twelfth and thirteenth tricks, the final pieces of an unlikely 67% victory.

**Editorial Comments:** 1. Mark's bid of 7NT is clearly going for the gusto. I would not be that aggressive in a mediocre field, especially if I were having a good game. Why risk getting a zero? Grand slams are usually a bad risk unless they are completely obvious.

2. The actual spade distribution occurs a bit less than 4% of the time. Although it fails on this hand, it would be better to finesse south for both the queen and jack of spades. This works about 25% of the time.

## The ACBL Website II – “My ACBL”

By Dave Shaw

Last issue, we visited the ACBL Website, but didn't get off the first page! This issue, let's take a look at “My ACBL” which is full of information about you and how you stack up against all other players in Vermont (Unit 175), in New England (District 25) and in the ACBL. Did you know, for example, if you have nine or 10 masterpoints, you are ahead of 28,000 other ACBL members!

So, let's take a look. First, in the address bar at the top of your screen, type in [www.ACBL.org](http://www.ACBL.org). Then, in the upper left corner, click on “My ACBL” and put in your ACBL number and your password. No password? Just follow the instructions at the bottom of the page.

You're in! My ACBL has a lot of useful information. On the left side of the screen is your membership information and opportunities to renew your membership and to do maintenance on your account like changing your address or email address. In the center, you can check where you stand, mentioned in the first paragraph.

Scroll down a bit and you can check on the two major annual masterpoint races (the Mini McKenney and the Ace of Clubs) for this year and for the immediate past year for both races for

Unit 175 (Vermont) and District 25 (New England). There's more, so scroll down and see if anything catches your eye.

You may have noticed that each new page you go to invites you to click on more and more pages within the site. If you want to know the members of your Vermont Bridge Association Board of Directors, go back to the first page and, in the left column, find "units and districts" and, on the next page that appears, click on "units" and type in "175" in the window. Click, click, click some more and you'll find lots of stuff about your unit.

REMEMBER: You can't damage your computer or the website by clicking around. So, explore and learn about The ACBL, its organization and governance and all that it has to offer to you as a bridge player.

## TABLE TALK FALL 2010 – TRUMP COUP

By Phil Sharpsteen

There will be otherwise routine bridge hands that become difficult when the opponents' trump split badly. It is important to be ready for that possibility and structure your initial play accordingly. The principles involved include reducing your trump length to that of your opponent and conserving entries to dummy so that critical leads in side suits from the table put pressure on your opponents trump length. A very interesting hand occurred at the recent District 25 Nashua regional in a flight A KO event. The hands and bidding were as follows:

	<b><u>North</u></b>	
	S void	
	H 72	
	D AKJ9743	
	C K975	
		<b><u>East</u></b>
		S 1097542
		H 93
		D Q85
		C J2
		<b><u>South</u></b>
		S AKQJ83
		H KQ5
		D 62
		C 86
	<b><u>West</u></b>	
S	6	
H	AJ10864	
D	10	
C	AQ1043	

The dealer was North:	<b><u>North</u></b>	<b><u>East</u></b>	<b><u>South</u></b>	<b><u>West</u></b>
	1D	P	1S	1NT (hearts/clubs)
	2D	P	4S	all pass

The opening lead was the heart Ace followed by the club Ace followed by the diamond ten. You win the diamond Ace and are in dummy for trick 4. The hand looks easy as all side suits are now solid and you will probably lose at most one spade trick on a 5-2 division. You have to get to your hand to test trumps and there are no guarantees! Best is a heart, however, as it doesn't spend

a dummy entry (a principle!) and if hearts were really 7-1 LHO probably would have bid differently.

After successfully winning the heart king at trick 4, you play the ace and king of trumps and discover the bad news, the 6-1 trump division! The contract is now at risk as you could lose two trump tricks for one down. Another high heart would most likely be trumped and lead to defeat. So you grit your teeth and lead your other small diamond to dummy. When LHO shows out, you know that RHO started with Qxx! (this is the rule of 13 – the number of cards in each suit).

Yes you have to do a lot of counting on this type of hand as you need to determine the most likely distribution of RHO suits outside the known 6 card spade suit. ) You can now expect that RHO started with 6 (known), 2, 3(known), 2 distribution. The key play, when in dummy with the second diamond winner, is to lead another diamond which you can trump with the spade 3 quite safely. You then go back to dummy with the preserved club king entry for another lead through the RHO's trump holding.

At this point you have 7 tricks (3 spades, one heart, two diamonds and one club) and you hold QJ8 of spades and the heart Q while RHO has the 10975 of spades. You just need to score your spade 8 to make the 4S contract and you have cleverly arranged to be in dummy at trick 10! You can lead any card and east MUST trump with the 9 or 10 to prevent you from scoring the 8. There are now two winning options but the more elegant is to over ruff with the jack and lead the heart Q. East must trump and you score the last two tricks with the Q8 of spades over east's 107 since east is on lead at trick 12! Sometimes the lead is a big disadvantage!

So be on the lookout for opportunities to neutralize your opponents trump stack and to make your contract. In this hand we actually reduced our trump length to one less than our RHO since it was important to score a trick with the spade 3 (a key trick that would otherwise be a loser). Next, it was important to realize the potential of the spade 8 with leads through east's 109xxxx holding. If east had held the spade 8 as well, you wouldn't have heard about this hand!

## **DIRECTOR** (please)

By Jim Thomas

Several years ago, the ACBL instituted a zero tolerance (**ZT**) to solve the problem of discourteous behavior in ACBL competition. New players, brave enough to give duplicate bridge a try, frequently cite discourteous or cutthroat behavior as the reason they won't go back. Behavior problems can occur at all levels, even in beginner games.

There are some laws in the ACBL law book that can best be described as courtesies. Many are related to proper procedure at the table. Law 90 gives the tournament director authority to assess procedural penalties in cases where no penalty is prescribed by law. I have listed below "things you should know"

1. Law 7 states each player is to count his cards face down before looking at the faces. It also states, "no player shall touch any cards other than his own." "Unless instructed otherwise by a tournament director, a member of each side must be present and seated before cards are removed from a board." Following the play of the hand, "no hand shall be removed from the board unless a member of each side or the director is present."

2. Law 90 states that procedural penalties may be assessed for any offense that unduly delays or obstructs the game, inconveniences other contestants, violates correct procedure or requires the awarding of an adjusted score at another table. Possible violations are

- Arrival of a contestant after the specified starting time
- Unduly slow play
- Discussion of the bidding play or result of a board, which may be heard at another table
- Unauthorized comparison of scores
- Touching the cards of another player
- Placing one or more cards in an incorrect pocket of the board
- Playing a wrong board
- Failure to comply with tournament regulations or with the instructions of the director
- Cell phone violations (they must be off --- period, end of story)

**Editorial Comment:** Many bridge players nowadays are hard of hearing. This frequently leads to discussions in stentorian tones. Sometimes one hears from three or four tables away, “making 6,” in a voice probably audible in Cleveland. All players, hearing problems or no, must realize their obligation to keep their voices down. Those who hear snippets of conversation must not take advantage of unauthorized information.

3. The penalty for late arrival depends on the event and how late the player is. In KO and Swiss teams, there may be IMP penalties and boards may be taken away. If you are too late, you may lose the match.

4. The penalty for cell phone violation is usually imps or match points. In many areas the penalty is automatic and the director is not authorized to waive the penalty. It is usually impossible to avoid the penalty, since players near the ringing phone are all pointing to the phone. National events do not even allow cell phones in the playing area (merely turning them off is not sufficient) and the penalty for repeat violation is disqualification from the event.

5. Each player is required to have a convention card filled out legibly and on the table throughout a session. The cards must be identical and must include the first and last names of each member of the partnership. The convention card is for the convenience of the opponents only. **You may not look at your own convention card during the auction.** That may provide unauthorized information to partner. Looking at your own convention card may also fall under law 90 (See item 2 above).

If a director determines that **neither** player has a substantially completed card, the partnership may play only the Standard American yellow card and may use only standard carding. The restriction may be lifted only at the end of a subsequent round after convention cards have been properly prepared. Further, the partnership will receive a 1/6 board matchpoint penalty for each board played commencing with the next round and continuing until the restriction is lifted. In IMP team games, penalties will be at the discretion of the director. If one member of a partnership has a substantially completed convention card, the director may give warnings or assign such penalties as he deems appropriate under the circumstances.

6. You may look at an opponent’s convention card at the start of a round or at your turn to call. You should not reach for the opponent’s card at your partner’s turn to call as that may convey unauthorized information.

**Editorial Comment:** This brings me to one of my pet peeves. Sometimes a player looks at the convention card and starts an interrogation of partner. "Is that a real club suit? How many clubs does he have to have?" It would have to be a particularly obtuse partner who has not received the obvious message.

7. When answering questions about alerts, you must provide full disclosure. The opponent does not have to ask the "right" question. Also, simply naming a convention is not an adequate answer. It is better to say, "11-15 high card points with 5 hearts and 4 spades," than to simply say "Flannery."

Also you must give honest answers about your carding. I recently had a ruling at a regional involving carding. The question was asked, "Is your carding standard?" The answer was yes. However, the pair was using Smith Echo which they did not disclose orally (It was marked on both convention cards). The effect was misinformation and the score on the board was adjusted.

I'll conclude by saying that bridge is only a game. Do not let your competitive drive get in the way of courteous or fair behavior. Be nice to your opponents and nicer to your partner.

If you have any questions, you may consult me at [mftjet@aol.com](mailto:mftjet@aol.com).

## SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT AT CLUBS (STAC)

From July 1 -7 all units of the New England District of the ACBL, except Connecticut, participated in a STAC. STAC events are sectionally rated and each participating club's results are considered to be one section of a larger event combining the results of all participating clubs. Overall rankings are based on the combined results of all sections throughout New England. Vermont Bridge Association members did very well. I have noted the following master point totals (10 points or more)

Wayne Hersey	14.08	Penny Lane	14.02
J Peter Tripp	14.02	Jesse Stalker	13.06
June Dorion	11.66	Jim Daigle	11.07
Marcia Wilkins	9.77		

Wayne Hersey and June Dorion were 1<sup>st</sup> overall in the Thursday Evening Open Pairs.

Martha St. Onge and Catherine Loew were 1<sup>st</sup> overall for flight C in the Thursday Evening Open Pairs.

Jesse Stalker and Jim Daigle were 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in the Friday Afternoon Open Pairs.

Marcia Wilkins and Carlos Galvan were 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the Friday Afternoon Open Pairs.

Rudy Polli and Frank Hacker were 1<sup>st</sup> overall in the Friday Evening Open Pairs.

Penny Lane and J Peter Tripp were 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in the Monday Afternoon Open Pairs.

Pat Nestork and Lynn Carew were first overall in the Friday Morning Open Pairs, small club division.

## ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game

On Thursday, September 16, the ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game took place at two Vermont locations: the Marble Valley Bridge Club in Rutland and the Burlington Bridge Academy. The winners in each direction receive 1 gold point as part of their master point award. Table Talk does not have complete results for the Rutland game, but notes that game had a Howell movement (one winner movement) and the gold point winners were **Bob Smith** and **Dave Miller**.

There were 12 tables in Burlington. The field consisted almost entirely of partnerships consisting of 1 life master and 1 player still needing gold points. In addition to the section top awards, there were overall awards for the best score in each direction. Top on a board was 100 (based on predetermined awards provided by the board travelers) with average for the entire session at 1,200. The results are listed below with the gold point winners all in capitals.

### NORTH-SOUTH

MP	A	B	C	Names	.
1.83	1			RONALD PLANTE – FRANK HACKER	1,512
1.28	2			Mark Adair – Fred Donald, Jr.	1,278
1.33	3	1		Sandy Gurowski – William Schiring	1,270
1.13	4	2	1	Paul Clouser – John Stokes	1,228
0.79	5	3	2	John Lampron – Layton Davis	1,145
0.57		4	3	Carla Klop – Louise Acker	1,120

### EAST-WEST

MP	A	B	C	Names	.
1.83	1	1		SHEILA BARTON – RUDOLPH POLLI	1,447
1.28	2	2		Michael Borushok – Jay Friedenson	1,408
0.92	3	3	1	Nancy Madden – Bonnie Clouser	1,394
0.64	4	4		Carol Slesar – Stanley Rosenthal	1,381
0.37	5			Marc Monheimer – Phil Sharpsteen	1,368

## VERMONT SUMMER SECTIONAL RESULTS

**Rutland, VT**  
**July 9-11, 2010**

### Friday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
4.67	1			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	62.97
3.50	2			Melvin Marcus – Vincent Grande, Jr.	62.77
2.63	3			Paul Wolf II – William Hunter	61.42

1.97	4			Ellie Hanlon – Mary Savko	61.02
3.21	5	1	1	John Conova – Karen Kristiansen	58.99
1.17	6			Lewis Gamerman – Bill Irvine.	58.54
2.41		2	2	Irene Vignoe – Patricia Williams	57.79
1.81		3		Abe Brown – Jean Brown	53.86
1.35		4		Lynn Carew – Pat Nestork	52.96
1.19		5	3	Sally Newton – John Newton	52.82
0.76		6		Nancy Lolli – Barbara Philpet	50.71
1.07			4	J Richard Klaas – Suzanne Klaas	50.45
0.67			5	Barbara Unger – Richard Unger	49.49

### Friday Evening Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
3.83	1			Lewis Gamerman – Bill Irvine	68.52
2.87	2	1		S Michael Sharp – Nancy Sharp	61.57
2.15	3			Bill Hunter – Paul Wolf II	58.56
1.62	4			J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	57.87
1.21	5			Robert Donald – Diane Burger	56.94
0.96	6			Wayne Hersey – June Dorion	54.86
1.97		2		Bonnie Clouser – Mary Tierney	53.24
1.29		3/4		Albert Muggia – Judie Muggia	51.39
1.29		3/4		Nick Ecker Racz – Bill Schiring	51.39
0.92		5		Robin Hillyard – Kimberly Gilman	50.69
1.53			1	Sally Newton – John Newton	48.15
1.15			2	Judith Ward – Linda Baker	42.82

### Saturday Morning Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
4.53	1/2	1/2	1	Stanley Erney – Dorothy Erney	61.81
4.53	1/2	1/2		Sonja Smith – David Rock	61.81
2.91	3			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	61.57
2.18	4			Lewis Gamerman – Bill Irvine	61.11
1.97	5	3	2	Sandy Desilets – Rhoda Chickering	60.19
1.23	6			J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	59.72
1.46		4	3	John Conova – Karen Kristiansen	55.56
1.11		5	4	John Nelson – Linda Nelson	53.01
0.83		6		David Shaw – Jackie Kimel	52.78
0.87			5	Sally Newton – John Newton	52.08

### Saturday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
4.50	1			Lewis Gamerman – Bill Irvine	64.96
3.38	2	1		Pat Nestork – Lynn Carew	60.80
2.53	3	2	1	John Newton – Sally Newton	60.42

1.90	4		Robert Donald – Diane Burger	60.04
1.58	5		J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	59.28
1.13	6		Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	58.52
1.72	3		Sonja Smith – David Rock	57.39
1.33	4	2	John Nelson – Linda Nelson	57.01
1.07	5		Ed Midgley – Laura Midgley	54.73
0.73	6		Ruth Stokes – Bryant Jones	54.55
1.00		3	John Conova – Karen Kristiansen	52.27
0.75		4	Stanley Erney – Dorothy Erney	47.54

### Sunday Open Swiss Teams

<u>MP</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Names</u>	<u>SCORE</u>
7.25	1			Patricia DiVincenzo – Gerald DiVincenzo Kathleen Farrell – Michael Farrell	133
5.44	2			Vincent Grande Jr. – Melvin Marcus Lewis Gamerman – Bill Irvine	112
4.08	3			Fred Donald, Jr. – Rudy Polli Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	103
2.74	4/5			Andy Avery – Paul Cohen Mary Savko – Ellie Hanlon	91
4.81	4/5	1		Stan Rosenthal – Jackie Kimel James Chase – Dave Shaw	91
3.61	6	2		Jesse Stalker – Hanan Lushkov Arthur Giovannangeli – Howard Lane Jr.	89
2.71		3		Courtney Nelson – Phyllis Bassen Sandra Hammer – Patricia Chambliss	77
2.03		4		Ed Midgley – Laura Midgley Barbara Philpet – Nancy Lolli	75
2.16			1/2	Mary Azarian – Gerow Carlson Vivienne Adair – Mark Adair	70
2.16			1/2	Judith Ward – Linda Baker Catherine Loew – Gerrie Willis	70

### June Dorion

June Dorion has been one of the brightest stars in the bridge firmament for many years. She is a dear sweet lady, except at the bridge table, where she is a ferocious competitor. Many years ago, she was the featured personality in Table Talk. Much thanks to C. Kirk Osterland for providing the following write-up.

June Dorion, Fairhaven Vermont, is one of the compleat bridge stars of Southwest Vermont. This is a brief description of her bridge career. June did not start bridge as a very young child, but she did come from a family that enjoyed card games. Pinochle was a favorite, being a game requiring thought and strategic planning to be successful and also the development of that elusive skill – card sense. She remembers the thrill that came the first time she was able to beat her father. (needless to say, he was not as amused as she)

Bridge began for June in college and was just one of the many activities of college life. After college and during World War II, while her husband was overseas, June worked in New York City for an insurance company. She and her workmates convened a regular “brownbag” lunch session to play bridge. On some weekends, she was able to travel north to Vermont to visit her husband’s parents. There she encountered Walter’s mother, who June says was a real bridge shark. It was she who introduced June to the potential joys of competitive bridge.

After the war, June and Walter moved to Fairhaven, Vermont. There she taught school and raised a family. She and new friends started a couples bridge club. That meant a game once a month and some ladies’ day time sessions thrown in. These latter games were convened at each others’ homes, with children in tow in order to save baby sitting costs..

It was only after she retired from teaching than June started to play some duplicate bridge. In sparsely populated Vermont this meant traveling to towns with large enough populations to host a regularly scheduled duplicate bridge game. With her first partner, Hazel Stannard, she traveled to the Rutland bridge club, sited in the show room of Billings garage on South Main Street. She and Hazel were nervous newcomers to the “big city club.” Miraculously, they won their first two outings. June was hooked. She studied – bought and read books on bidding, conventions, defense and play. Hazel, on the other hand, avoided the books and relied on June to provide their strategy for future play. It is June’s opinion, however, that Hazel was the sharp one at the bridge table and could easily have been a champion.

For about five years June played in local Vermont games – Rutland, Middlebury, Woodstock and Manchester. Usually she managed just one game a week during the winter months, but June nonetheless accumulated master points. She knew that she had to develop regular partnerships to compete successfully in Vermont sectional and in the regional tournaments held in neighboring states. Dave Pendleton of Manchester, Vermont, was June’s first regular tournament partner. With him she won her first regional event in New Haven, Connecticut. June became a life master while playing with Rose Marie Viscardi of Ticonderoga, NY. June had other favorite partners as well – Jean Seward, Pierce Smith, Bob Smith, Courtney Nelson, Irene Vignoe and Don Campbell – all distinguished players in the Vermont community. June and Jean Seward had a very successful partnership. Jean kept abreast of the newer conventions and June said Jean pushed her into making many fruitful additions to her “simple and uncomplicated” style of bidding.

For the past 10 + years, June has played primarily with Wayne Hersey from Montpelier. They have been one of the strongest partnerships in New England region tournaments. June says that in the early days of their partnership she was a mentor, but that Wayne has advanced so much that he is now a welcome mentor for her. June wistfully observes that both Wayne and Jean Seward have leapt ahead of her in the master point race, but she states with a rueful smile, “I forgive them And love them anyway.”

June is definitely a competitive bridge player who loves to win. Yet it would be hard to point to a better liked or more respected player in southern Vermont. She avoids controversies at the bridge table and is very gracious to the opponents, always giving credit for good play. It would be hard to imagine a finer ambassador for the game she loves so much.

## Vermont On The Tournament Trail

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

### New Orleans Nationals:

Andy Avery	60.41	Penny Lane	44.44
J Peter Tripp	44.44	Mary Savko	34.39
Ellie Hanlon	34.39	James Gordon	19.66

### Saratoga:

Mary Savko	40.95	Ellie Hanlon	40.95
Gerald DiVincenzo	27.92	John Conova	25.47
Norma Jakominich	25.47	Courtney Nelson	23.78
Sandra Hammer	23.78		

### Sturbridge:

Penny Lane	26.70	Peter Tripp	26.70
Wayne Hersey	19.77	June Dorion	19.77

### Halifax:

Allan Graves	107.77	Ellie Hanlon	44.88
Mary Savko	43.69	James Gordon	26.53

### Hunt Valley:

Norma Jakominich	15.18	John Conova	11.41
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### Montreal:

Mary Savko	74.98	Ellie Hanlon	74.98
Judy Frank	13.31		

### Pittsburgh:

Allan Graves	114.87		
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### Nashua:

Phil Sharpsteen	49.32	Frank Hacker	49.32
Ellie Hanlon	47.20	Mary Savko	47.20
Penny Lane	22.73	J Peter Tripp	22.73
Alan Wertheimer	18.13	Sandy Desilets	13.70
Rhoda Chickering	13.70	Wayne Hersey	10.24
June Dorion	10.24	Don Sondergeld	10.08

## 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:**

Betty Allen Barnouw	Doris Bass	Vicki Green
Merle Kent	Edward Labenski	Maureen Labenski
Don Sharp	Barbara Slater	Linda Spencer
Sue Wallingford	Ethan Ward	

**Club Master:**

Paula Davidson  
Arlene Fleming  
Duncan Robb

Hayward Day  
Cynthia Holler  
Joan Turnbull

Patricia Eastman  
Cathy Kimmel

**Sectional Master:**

Dulany Bennett  
Martha St. Onge

Susan Benson  
Stephanie Stringos

Catherine Loew  
Nancy Zapletal

**Regional Master:**

Lee Corbett

**NABC Master:**

Luisa Chernyshov

Susan King

**Bronze Life Master:**

Sandy Desilets

**Gold Life Master:**

David Shaw

**Platinum Life Master:**

Mary Savko

NOTE: Many readers may be unfamiliar with ACBL rank requirements, especially for the higher ranks.

Bronze Life Master	=	500 points
Silver Life Master	=	1,000 points
Gold Life Master	=	2,500 points
Diamond Life Master	=	5,000 points
Emerald Life Master	=	7,500 points
Platinum Life Master	=	10,000 points
Grand Life Master	=	10,000 points
+ at least one victory in a national championship event with no upper masterpoint limit		

It is not often that Vermont has a player entering a rank of gold life master or above. Two is a very rare occurrence. Needless to say platinum life masters are very scarce.

As of 9/6/10, the ACBL had 165,481 members. Of these 480 had accumulated over 10,000 masterpoints, 1,585 were in the 5,000 – 10,000 masterpoint range and 5,320 were in the 2,500 to 5,000 masterpoint range. Players with over 2,500 masterpoints were in the top 5% of all ACBL members.

All of this information and much more is available on the ACBL web site.

# THOMAS EDISON SECTIONAL RESULTS

White River Junction, VT

August 14-15, 2010

**NOTE:** This tournament takes place in Vermont, but is actually run by the New Hampshire unit. This tournament does not count toward the Vermont Tiernan or Aborn trophy races.

## Saturday Two Session Open Pairs

<b>MP</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Names</b>	<b>PCT</b>
6.00	1			Rudolph Polli – Frank Hacker	63.76
4.50	2			J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	60.26
3.38	3			Wayne Hersey – June Dorion	57.47
2.53	4			Ruth Horner – John Cook	56.70
2.00	5			Ronald Mak – Wayne Burt	56.47
1.71	6			Jim Thomas – Jean Seward	55.22
4.02		1		Roger Crean – Claire Gardner	54.91
3.02		2		Robert Erwin – C Suzanne Erwin	54.61
2.26		3		Craig Heim – Thomas Ferguson	53.82
2.76		4	1	Howard Knightly – James Felch	53.04
1.61		5		Stephen King – Susan King	53.03
2.33		6	2	Pat Durant – Jan Binger	52.12
1.63			3	R L Scott Drysdale III – Richard Sansing	50.88
1.16			4	Jonathan Crane – Susan Crane	50.73
0.92			5	Edwin Shivell – Diane Shivell	47.30

## Sunday Open Swiss Teams

<b>MP</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Names</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
5.25	1			Tom MacBeth – Joseph Cappannelli	
				Vincent Grande Jr – Lloyd Arvedon	86
3.94	2			Daniel McGuire – Wayne Burt	
				Fred Graf – Bruce Downing	85
2.95	3			J Peter Tripp – Penny Lane	
				June Dorion – Wayne Hersey	75
2.21	4			Jesse Stalker – Jim Daigle	
				Marcia Wilkins – Hanan Lushkov	65
3.21		1		Elinor Horne – David Jenkins	
				Thomas Kurtz – Agnes Kurtz	63
2.41		2		Daniel Button – Denise Olson	
				Peter Valiante – Claire Gardner.	57
2.11			1	James Felch – Peter Mitchell	
				William Mitchell – Robert Larkin	56

## 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 results for 2010 after 3 of Vermont's 4 sectionals. Kathy Farrell had a substantial lead after 2 tournaments over perennial winner Phil Sharpsteen, but she played only on Sunday at the last sectional. She won the Swiss Team event, but still surrendered most of her lead. Here are the top 10. Apologies to anyone I inadvertently omitted.

1.	Kathleen Farrell	32.04	6.	Sally Newton	24.25
2.	Phil Sharpsteen	31.88	6.	John Newton	24.25
3.	Patricia DiVincenzo	31.01	8.	Frank Hacker	22.80
4.	Michael Farrell	28.04	9.	Bill Schiring	20.40
5.	Jerry DiVincenzo	26.91	9.	Nick Ecker Racz	20.40

## 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. Last year's runner up, Karen Kristiansen, has the lead after 3 of the 4 tournaments. Here are the top 10. Apologies to anyone I inadvertently omitted.

1.	Karen Kristiansen	19.01	6.	Neil Raphel	4.60
2..	John Conova	17.21	7.	Ross Lieb-Lappen	4.12
3.	Vivienne Adair	4.91	8.	Linda Baker	3.80
3.	Mark Adair	4.91	8.	Judith Ward	3.80
5.	Patricia Williams	4.62	10.	Kay Fay	3.59

## I Don't Understand

By Frank Hacker

At a recent Burlington duplicate, I held

S	Kxx
H	A10x
D	AK9
C	KQxx

In fourth chair, I waited patiently for the auction to come to me. Both opponents passed. Partner opened 1 diamond. I decided not to make a heavy 3NT bid on my 19 points and also that 2 clubs was a better bid than 3 clubs on my flat hand that doesn't know where it wants to go.

Over my 2 club bid, left hand opponent chimed in with 2 hearts. Partner raised to 3 clubs and right hand opponent passed. Now what??? Clubs, diamonds and NT were all possibilities.

I temporized with 3 hearts. Partner responded 4 diamonds. Ordinarily, I would consider the 4 diamond bid to deny possession of the spade ace. This auction is different, however, since partner's 4 diamond bid simply says he can't bid 3NT and that he considers a diamond rebid to be his best choice.

I guess we're going to play in 6 diamonds or 6NT. Time to check for aces. Partner has two aces. Since we play regular Blackwood (Is that still legal?), I don't know about the queen of diamonds. I'm willing to gamble on that. It looks like we have eleven easy tricks: 2 in spades, 1 in hearts, 5 in diamonds and 3 in clubs. Partner could produce a twelfth trick with the queen of spades, a sixth diamond or the jack of clubs. Clubs could split evenly. With all those chances, 6NT looks like a good bet. We might be cold for 7D also, but I don't like to gamble on grand slams unless I am absolutely sure.

Partner's hand was	S	AQx
	H	Q
	D	Q10xxxx
	C	Axx

Diamonds split 4-0, but I was able to pick up the jack to make thirteen easy tricks. What's so hard about that? This turned out to be a top. The only other pair in 6NT made only six. Three pairs were in 6 diamonds, 2 in 3NT and two other pairs were in outer space. Left hand opponent could have made life more interesting by opening 2 hearts instead of waiting. This should actually make reaching 6NT easier. Partner's overcall of 3D would be predicated on outside values and a long suit (since he is missing the AK). I don't understand the problem.

## Coming Events

The coming events section of this issue is quite crowded with many overlapping events. The World Bridge Series conflicts with the Ottawa Regional and the Vermont Bridge Association annual meeting and President's Pairs. The Ottawa Regional even seeks to capitalize on the conflict by stating that master points will be easier to win with all the big guns in Philadelphia.

The Danbury CT. Regional conflicts with our Vermont Fall Sectional. Danbury is on the NY, CT border and the tournament is actually a District 3 tournament. We would not ordinarily run opposite a NE (District 25) regional. Oh, well! I hope we'll all be loyal to our own VT tournament.

- Oct. 1-16**      World Bridge Series Championship, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia
- Oct. 6-11**     Regional, Crown Plaza Hotel, Ottawa, Ont.
- Oct. 10**        Vermont Bridge Association Annual Meeting and President's Pairs, traditional turkey dinner, price \$14.00 for VBA members (\$28.00 for nonmembers), subsidized by VBA --- location is Burlington Bridge Club's new quarters at 156 Commerce, St., Williston, 10:30 AM
- Oct. 25-31**     District 3 Regional, Danbury Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, Danbury, CT.
- Oct. 29-31**     VBA Fall Sectional (See flyer this issue), Holiday Inn, Rutland, VT.
- Nov. 11-15**    Regional, Holiday Inn, Waterbury, CT.
- Nov. 25-**        Fall Nationals, Marriott World Center Resort, Orlando, FL.
- Dec. 5**
- Dec. ??**        Perrin Pairs, TBA

# 2010 VERMONT FALL SECTIONAL

October 29 – 31, 2010

Holiday Inn, Rutland, VT

Sanction: S1010106

## Friday Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>

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

## Saturday Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>

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

## Sunday OCT 31st

10:30AM 1<sup>st</sup> Session Open Swiss Teams, Stratified  
0 to 300 Swiss Teams, 1 session  
~3:00PM 2<sup>nd</sup> Session Open Swiss Teams, Stratified

Open Stratifications: A: 2500+ B: 750 to 1500 C: 0 to 750  
Swiss Team Stratifications: as above but will use the average master points for the team  
Newcomer Stratifications: A 100 to 300, B 50 to 100, C 0 to 50  
(Stratifications may be adjusted by Director based on attendance.)

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

**Director:** Dave Marshall

**Partnerships and information:** Phil Sharpsteen (802) 899-2080

**Hospitality:** The VBA is pleased to offer free refreshments after the Friday evening session and at 10:00AM, Sunday morning before the Swiss Teams.

Accommodations for the tournament at the Rutland Holiday Inn: For reservations call 1-800-462-4810

:

	1 person	2 persons	
Double Bed 1 night	\$ 99	\$115	Prices
King Bed 1 night	\$105	\$125	do not
Double Bed 2 nights	\$179	\$209	Include
King Bed 2 nights	\$199	\$229	Tax

Package includes 1 complimentary hot breakfast per person per night and 1 \$10 food voucher per person (only 1 whether you stay one or 2 nights)

A publication of the Vermont Bridge Association  
Frank A. Hacker, Editor  
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Barre, VT 05641

The Vermont Bridge Association, Unit 175 of the American Contract Bridge League publishes Table Talk quarterly. If you are an ACBL and Unit 175 (Vermont) member And have not received a copy of Table Talk, please notify the editor. Contributors' articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the VBA.