

# TABLE TALK

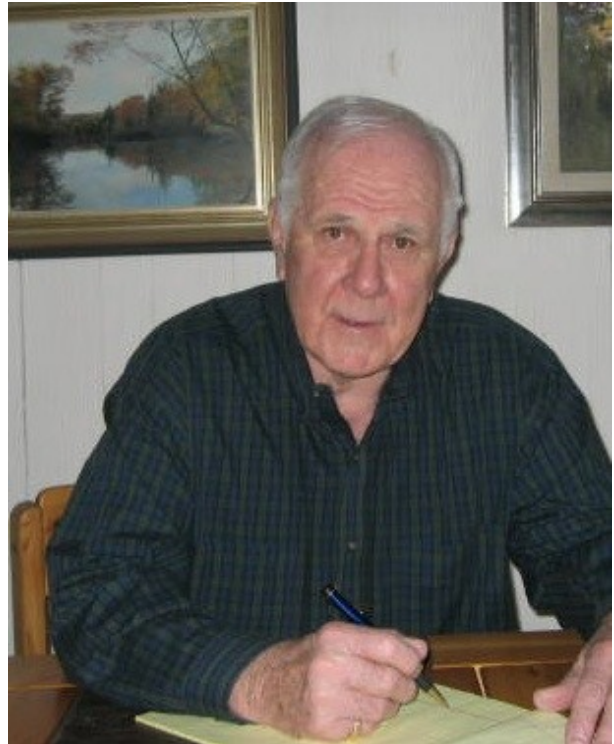
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*“Mental Toughness is Essential to Success,”* a quote from the great football coach, Vince Lombardi, best describes the attitude and philosophy that have guided sixty-six of Robert H. Smith’s seventy-eight years on this planet. One thing is for sure: It is a direct reflection of his commitment to the bridge world.

Competition was an important part of Bob’s early life. He made the Ridgefield, NJ Cubs Baseball Team, not because of his eight-year-old talent, but because he sold the most raffle tickets to raise money for the uniforms. The majority of the team was comprised of ten- to twelve-year-olds. They hid Bobby out in right field, but that right field position didn’t last long. His daily training –a regimen he devised– involved throwing and catching a tennis ball off the front stoop. He honed his batting eye by practicing with a friend, throwing strikes to the image of a box drawn with chalk on the school’s brick wall. By the middle of that first season, he was playing second base and made the All-Star team.

This intuitive drive to improve, striking at such a young age, revealed a pattern that he would follow in every facet of his life.



## **Fatigue Makes Cowards of Us All, *Vince Lombardi***

When he graduated from Ridgefield Junior High, Bob’s sports reputation generated a phone call and visit from Coach Vince Lombardi of St. Cecelia’s Parochial School, located in Englewood, New Jersey. Accepted at St. Cecelia’s and guided by the fledgling coach, Bob thrived in the exceptional physical regimen and lessons in discipline, and developed a strong, competitive will to win which went beyond the playing field to the Chess and Debating teams.

Those formative years laid the foundation for a fantastic sports career in the post-war Army, where he excelled in football, basketball and baseball.

It was also sports, fastpitch softball to be exact, that gave him the in-road to a position at McGraw Hill Publishing Company and which would prove to be a catalytic event in both his career and his introduction to bridge.

It was about that time that Bob was convinced by a few of his card-playing buddies that the only *real* card game was *Bridge* and that the card games he knew, *Hearts* and *Double Deck Pinochle*, were kid’s games. They introduced him to bridge, and the game became Bob’s passion. He found that it was the most competitive game ever, bought a Goren book and read it through twice, memorizing every bid and reason. In his hands at all times, including drive time from client to client, was a game called *Auto Bridge*. He had bridge fever! In a short time, he knew

more about bidding than his friendly enemies and began to retrieve the hard-earned dollars he had previously “donated” to their cause.

Coincidentally, Bob discovered that the President/CEO of McGraw Hill and his VP were avid bridge enthusiasts and played in a weekly company game. Bob and his bridge mentor teamed up, and it wasn't long before a phone call came in from the VP. “Smitty,” he said, “the boss wants you to bring us up to competitive duplicate speed. How about some lessons?”

Duplicate Bridge became almost an obsession. Bob managed to manipulate his work load so he could play every day, but he realized that becoming a Life Master was jeopardizing his career and affecting his income. Putting things in perspective, and relegating bridge to the back seat, he focused on his livelihood, started and grew his own publishing company in New Milford, Connecticut, and played little bridge for the next seven years. In the mid 80s, his business partner became ill and Bob decided to sell the business. A deal was made in 1987, after which he retired and moved to Jupiter, Florida with his life partner, Patti. He began to teach bridge at a local community college and lectured when the price was right. One of his proudest moments was when one of his lectures outdrew a lecture by Bill Root.

Patti and Bob, who married in '92, were not warm-weather people and realized the Florida lifestyle was not for them. They decided to check out Vermont for a summer rental and ultimately moved back North full time.

Local bridge wasn't the best, but it was bridge. The best game was Monday afternoons during the summer, in Dorset. A really fun lady, Smokey Long, directed the game with the help of her whistle and her no-nonsense attitude. The Manchester Tuesday night group was the oldest. It was then the mountain region's only year-round game, and could best be described as a co-op. For years, it was run by beloved, but sometimes grumpy, John Vogeler, who also started a Friday afternoon summer game a few years later.

In January, 2003, Ed Midgley and Bob bought the Friday game. They have since then combined their efforts and worked together to build bridge in the Greater Manchester & the Mountains region. Since Bob was a full-time resident, he assumed the day-to-day management responsibilities. Ed immediately studied and became a certified Bridge Director.

The key to building their day games was to give lots of attention to the players and to initiate an on-going bridge education program. Bob started a summer Wednesday afternoon game, introducing a free bridge lecture. He also accepted the position as Director and Teacher of the Stratton Mountain Trail Blazers Ski Club's bridge players, about thirty to forty skiers who traversed from the slopes to the card tables every Wednesday at noon. This very novice group enthusiastically absorbed his lectures and quickly caught on to duplicate.

It became apparent that the area could and would support year-round bridge if it were properly promoted. Bob instituted a *guaranteed-partner* policy to accommodate all players, combined with a telephone get-out-the-players campaign. The numbers of players increased to twenty-two tables in the summer and a steady six to eight in the winter.

The large summer games are a joy to watch, with Floridians, Arizonans and other summer immigrants blending. Ed and Bob's policy of “Vermont Friendly But Serious Bridge” works. Everyone benefits from the experience. Manchester players continuously place in the money in Sectional games at nearby Killington and various ACBL events.

With success comes an increased workload. It did, and it was quickly resolved with the office management skills of Bob's bride, Patti who, although she doesn't play, handles scoring, web site and even cooks scrumptious hors d'oeuvres for the Christmas party. Bob, Ed and Patti are entering four years together. They agree it's been a lot of fun, and it's only beginning. The game plan is to buy, or build, a bridge center in Manchester. A bridge center would encourage more people to play the great game. Ongoing bridge lessons would be given. The Manchester & The Mountains Duplicate Bridge Center would be open for social bridge, backgammon and would be a place where lots of interesting people can meet.

Bob Smith is a Silver Life Master, Bridge Director, Teacher and co-owner of Manchester & The Mountains Duplicate Bridge Club, [www.bridgescore.com/manchmtn](http://www.bridgescore.com/manchmtn) or 802-362-4224.

## NEW YORKER MAGAZINE

Many thanks to Don Sondergeld for pointing out that the September 17 issue of New Yorker magazine contained a book review of **Turning Tricks** *The Rise and Fall of Contract Bridge* by David Owen. The review is quite lengthy and very interesting in its own right. The books sounds fascinating.

### Cut and Thrust

By Harold Feldheim

This article is reprinted with the kind permission of the author and the editor from the August issue of "Kibitzer," the newsletter of the Connecticut Bridge Association.

Of all the variants in the play of the cards, none is prettier than those that extract the best efforts of both declarer and defender. This hand is an excellent example of this theme.

Your problem: What are South's chances of making her contract? After 2C, 2D (waiting), South, with only 24 HCP, used her excellent diamond suit as an excuse to bid 3NT. North felt his long clubs were also worth the leap to 6NT.

North	
S	64
H	65
D	109
C	AJ108765

South	
S	AQ8
H	AQ3
D	AKQ65
C	K4

Lead: 10 of hearts

South surveyed her prospects. Entries to the club suit were a problem, but, after counting her tricks, she hit upon an elegant solution. With six sure tricks outside of clubs (one spade, 2 hearts and 3 diamonds), only six of her seven clubs were needed to fulfill the contract.

With this thinking, she led the 4-spot and when West inserted the deuce, called the 10 from dummy. Of course, after East takes the queen, declarer can win any return, overtake her singleton king and claim the balance of the tricks.

But the 10 held the trick! Now what? If either side started with three clubs, the suit would remain blocked. After a little thought, she solved this conundrum by returning to the king of clubs and leading a diamond to the 109 in dummy. After this entry forcing play, the defense had no chance.

The complete hands:

	<b>North</b>	
	S 64	
	H 65	
	D 109	
	C AJ108765	
<b>West</b>		<b>East</b>
S K1075		S J932
H 1097		H KJ842
D J8743		D 2
C 2		C Q93
	<b>South</b>	
	S AQ8	
	H AQ3	
	D AKQ65	
	C K4	

Give East full marks for his sharp defensive duck, but give declarer higher marks for solving this elegant defense with a delicate counter-measure.

## **DI-REC-TOR** please

By Jim Thomas

### Penalty cards

Laws 48 thru 52 deal with penalty cards. There are specific provisions as to the definition of a penalty card, disposition of penalty cards, and how penalty cards affect the play of the hand.

A defender's card is considered exposed when it is in a position in which his partner **could possibly see** its face or when defender names a card as being in his hand. It does not matter if partner actually saw the card. Declarer is not subject to penalty for exposing a card, and no card of declarer or dummy becomes a penalty card. Declarer is not required to play any card dropped accidentally.

Most players are aware of the options concerning major penalty cards, but unaware of the differences concerning a minor penalty card.

A minor penalty card is a single non-honor card that was exposed inadvertently (such as two cards to one trick or dropping a card accidentally). An honor is always a major penalty card. Any card exposed through deliberate play (such as lead out of turn or played to a revoke trick before correction) is a major penalty card. If a defender has two or more penalty cards, all cards become major penalty cards.

Disposition of a minor penalty card is much less onerous than a major penalty card. Offender's partner is not subject to lead penalties, but information gained through seeing the penalty card is extraneous, unauthorized information (and Law 16A applies). Offender is not required to lead the card if he is on lead. The offender may not play any other card of the same suit below the rank of an honor until he has played the penalty card. He may, however, play an honor instead of the penalty card. This means that the offender may no longer signal length in that suit because the minor penalty card is the only small card that he can play to that suit.

A major penalty card must be played at its first legal opportunity by the offender. If that suit is led, the card must be played to that trick. If offender is out of the suit led, the penalty card must be played to that trick. If offender wins a trick, the penalty card must be led. The requirement that the offender must play the card is authorized information for his partner, but other information arising from the facing of the penalty card is unauthorized information (such as distribution if that card finishes count of a suit).

If you win a trick when your partner has a major penalty card, there are options for the declarer. You may not lead until declarer chooses his option. If you do lead before declarer makes his decision, your card becomes a penalty card. Declarer may say nothing, defender may lead anything including the suit of the penalty card, and the penalty card remains on the table to be played at its first legal opportunity. Declarer may also demand or deny the lead of the suit of the penalty card. However, if either of those options is taken, offender may pick up the penalty card and is free to play any legal card to the trick.

If defender has two or more penalty cards that can legally be played, declarer designates which is to be played at that trick. If offender's partner gains the lead, and declarer picks an option which allows offender to pick up the penalty card, all cards in that suit are picked up. If the offender's cards are in different suits, declarer may require the lead of either suit, and only that suit's cards are picked up. If the offender's cards are in different suits, declarer may prohibit the defender's partner from leading **one or more** such suits, and offender may pick up all cards in the prohibited suits.

If the offender's partner cannot comply with the lead instructions (such as no more cards in that suit), partner then can lead anything. Likewise if he has only one suit left in his hand, he may lead it in spite of the prohibition. Offender still picks up the card or cards in that designated suit.

If you have any questions on rulings or a law you want me to address in a future column, please let me know at [mtjet@aol.com](mailto:mtjet@aol.com) or call 802-273-2075.

# 'TRUMP COUP TOMMY' RIDES AGAIN! (EN PASSANT)

by Phil Sharpsteen

A very interesting play hand occurred in a recent top bracket KO event at a District 25 regional. In this event, you can be sure that ALL close vulnerable games will be bid! This hand illustrates that as well. The auction was identical at both tables for the first few bids.

S	Q9753		
H	Void		
D	AQ103		
C	K753		
S	10842	S	KJ
H	KQ753	H	J84
D	J854	D	K76
C	Void	C	Q10862
<b>Dealer</b>			
S	A6		
H	A10932		
D	92		
C	AJ94		

At both tables, the auction was the same up to a point

Dealer	Opp 1	Partner	Opp2
1H	P	1S	P
2C	P	3C	P
3D	P	??	

At one table, North now bid 3NT ending the auction. At the other table, North bid 4C and South raised to 5C. At both tables a low diamond was the opening lead, albeit from different hands. The play in 3NT required a spade guess for the 9th trick (3 clubs + 3 diamonds + 1 heart + 1 spade = only 8 tricks). Declarer pulled this off when the jack appeared from East on the first spade trick. North ducked a spade to East's now bare king setting up the spade queen for the game-going ninth trick.

The play in 5 clubs was much more exciting! The low diamond lead went to the queen and king. East now returned the jack of spades! South knows nothing about the opponent's distribution at this point and has a big guess at how to play this hand. Losing to the spade king at this point means the trump suit must be picked up without loss (queen 3rd on side). The second diamond finesse may work for a spade pitch and declarer may need to be take the finesse anyway for an 11th trick. With only 4 outside tricks on this line (1 spade, 1 heart and 2 diamonds), declarer may require SEVEN trump tricks on a cross ruff line to make the contract! This might actually work looking at all the cards, but since that was not the line of play chosen, it is left as a double dummy problem for you readers (send solutions to your TI editor!).

Declarer followed with a low spade to the lead of the jack and was pleasantly surprised when the queen won. This was short-lived however when a club play to the jack revealed the very unpleasant 5—0 split! At least options were now greatly reduced so the play sped up considerably. Declarer cashed the major suit aces (the play of the spade king from East was forced but would be correct from KJ10 also) and trumped a heart in dummy. On the spade return,

East pitched the jack of hearts as declarer trumped. East's distribution is now looking like 2-3-3-5 so an attempt at another heart ruff looks like it won't work. The diamond 10 was finessed followed by the diamond ace to which all followed (whew!). At this point declarer has eight tricks in and the remaining cards are as follows with the lead in dummy:

	S 97	
	H Void	
	D Void	
	C K7	
S 108		S void
H KQ		H void
D Void		D void
C Void		C Q1086
	S Void	
	H 93	
	D Void	
	C A9	

On a spade lead, East is forced to split with the 10 of clubs or declarer will score the 9 of clubs and then the king and ace on a high cross-ruff to fulfill the contract. Declarer over ruffs with the ace and returns to dummy with a heart ruff with the king of clubs. The lead of the remaining spade finishes East — the 9 of clubs cannot be shut out from the game-going ~ trick (en passant) and the board is a push!

**Editorial Comment:** Phil played this hand brilliantly. I think his expertise with seemingly hopeless contracts is due to a great deal of practice.

## The Whole Enchilada

By Frank Hacker

In the early 1970s I played in a club game at Utica College with a partner and a left hand opponent who were refugees from the Twilight Zone (How many of us will admit to being old enough to remember that TV show?). Vulnerable, I opened 1 club with a flat 13 points. My partner opted for Blackwood and after I showed 2 aces and 1 king, he bid 7NT. My left hand opponent doubled and partner redoubled. Dummy had 20 flat high card points. We were missing 3 queens and a jack. I finessed the doubler for one of the queens and his partner won the trick. Later I finessed the doubler for another of the queens – same result. **How ignominious!!! -1,000 with 33 high card points.**

It turns out that the doubler had 0 high card points. I asked how he could double with such a hand. His response was, “Nobody can take all 13 tricks.”

This encounter from about 35 years ago has colored my attitude toward grand slams. I like them to be cold. One does not always get what one wants, especially if one is given to opening weakish hands. Here is a hand from earlier this year. As North. in first chair, I held

S 10xx	H KQJxxx	D KQ	C xx
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Here was the auction

North	West	South	East
1H	P	1S	P
2H	P	4N	P
5C	D	5D	P
6H	P	7H	all pass

5 Clubs showed 1 or 4 key cards for hearts. 5D asked for the queen of hearts. 6H said yes.

West doubled the 5C Blackwood response for a club lead. Since he was on lead himself, he followed his own instructions and led the king of clubs. Here were the combined North/South hands. I have left out the opponents' hands, because, I never did find out what they were in their entirety.

S	AK9x
H	A10x
D	AJx
C	AJ10

S	10xx
H	KQJxxx
D	KQ
C	xx

This looked very bad. The third diamond would take care of the club loser, but what about spades. Both missing spade honors would be on side about 25% of the time, not much to hang your hopes on! I wouldn't bet much on squeeze possibilities either.

It turned out there was a better play, one that won when spades split 3-3 or either opponent had QJ doubleton. Also, trumps needed to be 3-1 or better. If hearts were 2-2, the diamond distribution didn't matter, but if hearts were 3-1, diamonds couldn't be too horrible either. All of this had a percentage in the low to mid 30s. Well, beggars can't be choosers.

Here was the play. Win the club ace. Draw 2 rounds of trump with the 10 and K of hearts (turned out hearts are 2-2 – how nice!). Now play off the A and K of spades just in case both the queen and jack tumble down. If not, play 3 diamonds, pitching a **spade** not a club. Ruff a spade. When spades divide 3-3, your 4<sup>th</sup> spade in dummy comes home to provide the pitch for your losing club. Nothing to it really, but of the 4 pairs who played the hand, one played in 6NT making 6 and the other 2 played in 6H, making six. Neither apparently saw the point of using the long diamond to pitch a spade rather than a club.

## 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. After 3 tournaments, the leaders are

1.	June Dorion	29.00	7.	Mike Farrell	18.36
2.	Phil Sharpsteen	28.07	8.	Jackie Kimel	17.14
3.	Jerry DiVincenzo	27.36	9.	Dave Shaw	16.51
4.	Frank Hacker	20.03	10.	Patti DiVincenzo	16.44
5.	Wayne Hersey	19.14	10.	Kathy Farrell	16.44
6.	Bryant Jones	18.42	12.	Don Campbell	16.42

## 2007 Instant Match Point Game

The 2007 ACBL-wide Instant Match Point Game was held on Wednesday September 19 at the Burlington Bridge Academy. This game offered an incentive to players needing gold points. Section top winners earned one full gold point as part of their master point award.

Gold point winners were      Pat Hoffmann – Bryant Jones  
    Grant Pealer – Stanley Rosenthal  
    Sally Newton – John Newton  
    Rebecca Stone – Eric Stone

## 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. After 3 tournaments, the leaders are

1.	Sally Newton	14.44	5.	Sandy Desilets	5.37
1.	John Newton	14.44	7.	Karen Kristiansen	5.27
3.	Tom Osmer	7.97	8.	William Beadle	4.64
4.	Arthur Aiken	6.01	9.	Patricia Merrill	4.50
5.	Rhoda Chickering	5.37	10.	Sheila Long	3.97

## Support Doubles and Redoubles

By Mary Savko

During the years of trying to develop a good system with my partners, I have found one of the most effective tools to be the **support double and redouble**. These bids promise 3 card support for partner's suit, A direct raise of partner's suit would promise 4 card support. This combination of bids gives you a much better idea of whether to bid at the 3 level, because you know whether you have a 7, 8 or 9 card fit. This information may help pard defend accurately if you do not end up getting the contract. Also, knowing if pard has 3 or 4 card support may help you decide whether to play in a part score or game in

that suit or NT or whether to let the opponents have the bid and whether to double them. Some time you will end up in a 4-3 fit, but at least you will do so knowingly. Now to the nitty-gritty of the **support double and redouble**.

For example: In the bidding sequence

<u>You</u>	<u>Opp</u>	<u>Pard</u>	<u>Opp</u>
1D	P	1S	2C
???			

Double would be a support double showing 3 card spade support. A raise to 2 spades would show 4 card support. Pass would deny 3 or 4 spades. If in the auction above, your opponent had doubled instead of bidding 2C, redouble would be a **support redouble** showing 3 card support. A raise would show 4 card support and pass would deny 3 or 4 spades. A typical hand for a support double or redouble would be

S AQ7      H K103      D A9542      C 54

If you add one more spade and take away a diamond, you would raise to 2S which, of course, would show 4 card support. On the other hand, take away a spade and add a club and you would pass denying 3 or 4 spades.

Playing the **support double or redouble**, your first obligation when pard bids a major and opponent interferes is to double, redouble or pass to show your level of support. An exception to this: Opener has 18-19 points and fewer than 3 of the major. Opener cannot afford to pass, because pard may be too weak to bid again. In this situation, 2NT by opener shows 18-19 points and denies 3 or 4 cards in pard's major.

Helpful tips if you decide to play the **support double and redouble**

1. Play the **support double and redouble** only through 2H. If you open 1D, pard bids 1H and right hand opponent bids 2S, double by you would be for penalty, not a support double. Remember you have to be able to raise at the 2 level to have the double be part of the **support double** system.
2. Remember that it is opener who makes the **support double, redouble, raise or pass**.
3. Remember that when you are responder that it is a bid by left hand opponent that triggers the **support double** system. In the auction

<u>Pard</u>	<u>Opp</u>	<u>You</u>	<u>Opp</u>
1C	1H	1S	2H
X			

Pard's double is a support double showing 3 card support. This example is different from the one before, because first opponent has overcalled rather than passing. Even if your 1S bid shows 5 spades, the double is still a support double.

4. Support doubles do not apply if pard opens 1C and you respond 1D and opponent bids 1S. By partnership agreement, double here could show 4 hearts, because responder could be bidding suits "up the line" holding 4 or 5 diamonds and 4 hearts.

5. When opponent interferes with 1NT, double by opener is a **support double** if the 1NT overcall **does not** show a strong NT (e.g., the sandwich NT). If 1NT does show a strong NT, double is for penalty.

6. When pard opens and does not use a **support double**, (that is, partner passes to show less than 3 card support), and the auction passes back to you, you should reopen with a double only when you have at least 8 high card points. Pard may want to punish the opponents and convert the reopening double to a penalty double. For example, if your hand is

S K9642      H 75      D AQ4      C J54      and the auction is

Pard	Opp	You	Opp
1C	P	1S	2H
P	P	???	

You should reopen with double. Pard may convert your double to a penalty double. Pard doesn't have your suit, but may well have their suit.

7. When pard doubles or redoubles, you must say, "alert." The opponent has the right to know that the double or redouble promises 3 card support. You are not allowed to alert the raise or pass.

8. Keep a good sense of humor when you start using the **support double**. You'll need it, when one of you messes it up.

## Communicating in the Electronic Age

By Phil Sharpsteen

All organizations need to communicate with members, officers and interested third parties among others. In the Vermont Bridge Association, we prepare and deliver four issues of Table Talk each year, a warning of the Annual Meeting, notices of upcoming board meetings and announcements of each of our four sectional tournaments. There is considerable expense involved in preparing and distributing those missives.

The VBA Board has discussed over many years whether the Warning of the Annual Meeting may be sent via email to those who have known email addresses and has always

concluded that, as the by-laws don't specifically allow that means of sending the warning, we shouldn't send it out using email. We've also frequently discussed sending Table Talk via email but have agreed to not do so for a number of reasons.

Our [www.Vermontbridge.org](http://www.Vermontbridge.org) website is a terrific communications tool and we are learning more and better ways to maintain and update it. And while a number of you use it regularly, we are not convinced that it is widely seen as THE source of VBA information.

But, the use of the website and email as primary communications tools to our membership is clearly the future. It's inexpensive and makes instant communications possible. Please consider how easy it will be for you to know when a game is cancelled because of bad weather or to learn the game time for a unit event or to get directions to that event's location.

Board members (each club has a member on the board and officers are listed on the website) would like to hear from you as to how you use email and our website. And each of us needs to begin to think about accessing the website as the primary source of information about bridge happenings sponsored by the VBA.

### Marilyn Hacker Pairs

The eighth annual pair game in memory of Marilyn Hacker took place at the Burlington Bridge Academy on Saturday, September 8. The format was the customary two sessions of bridge combined with a lasagna dinner. The overall winners were

MP	A	B	C	Names
4.25	1			Mary Savko – Ellie Hanlon
3.19	2			Lynn Carew – Wayne Hersey
3.16	3	1		Penny Lane – Peter Tripp
2.37	4/5	2	1	Eunice Grover – Nancy Madden
1.57	4/5			Judie Donald – Fred Donald
1.78	6	3		Jackie Kimel – Dave Shaw
1.74		4/5	2/3	Mary Granger – James Hanley
1.46		4/5	2/3	Frank Reed – Ed Schirmer

### Vermont On The Tournament Trail

Many Vermonters have done well recently at the Nashville Nationals and at a number of regionals. Special congratulations should go to **Jim Gordon** of South Burlington who captained the winning team in the 0-5,000 master point version of the Spingold teams at the Nashville Nationals. Jim earned 100 master points for this victory. Can anybody remember another Vermonter who has won a national championship?

Here is a list of recent Vermont successes

<b><u>Nashville Nationals:</u></b>	Jim Gordon	118.27		
	Don Sondergeld	85.33		
<b><u>Sturbridge Regional:</u></b>	Layton Davis	13.67	Jay Friedenson	13.67
	Jim Thomas	12.31	Dave Shaw	10.09
	Anne Hoffman	10.02		
<b><u>Fredericton Regional:</u></b>	Jim Gordon	44.78	Mary Savko	41.11
	Ellie Hanlon	41.11	Frank Hacker	34.40
<b><u>Syracuse Regional:</u></b>	Mary Savko	36.38	Ellie Hanlon	36.38
<b><u>Montreal Regional:</u></b>	Ellie Hanlon	87.40	Mary Savko	87.40
	Don Sondergeld	44.72	Bryant Jones	15.36
<b><u>Waterbury Regional:</u></b>	Phil Sharpsteen	23.10	Ellie Hanlon	23.10
	Mary Savko	23.10	Frank Hacker	23.10
	Wayne Hersey	13.30	Bonnie Clouser	11.35
	Bryant Jones	11.35		

## 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:**

Linda Aiken	Virginia Freeman	Deborah Shenk
Theodore Brophy	Art Keppelman	William Scott
Lee Corbett	Jody Petterson	Julie Simpson-Levy
Kathy Demers	Barbara Robertson	Stephanie Stringos
Paul Ewell		

### **Club Master:**

William Callnan	June Felis	Alayne Rabow
Inge Cassidy	Linda Nelson	Margery Terry

### **Sectional Master:**

Raymond Brault	Richard Clark	Jack Linn
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**Regional Master:**

Virginia Christy

Ronald Plante

**Gold Life Master:**

Donald Sondergeld

**VERMONT SUMMER SECTIONAL RESULTS**

**Killington, VT**

**July 13-15, 2007**

**Friday Afternoon Open Pairs**

<b>MP</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Names</b>	<b>PCT</b>
5.33	1			Mary Savko – Ellie Hanlon	61.57
4.00	2	1	1	Stephen King – Gregory Udell	61.11
3.00	3			Fred Donald Jr. – Judith Donald	60.19
2.71	4	2		Joseph Phillips – Lois Lyon	59.72
2.03	5	3		Elaine Dray – Chris Roberts	59.03
1.70	6	4	2	David Wooden – Mae Beck	58.80
1.75		5		Abraham Brown – Jean Brown	58.10
1.28		6/7	3	Michael Zelkin – E Zelkin	56.48
0.89		6/7		John O'Brien – John Riopelle	56.48
0.96			4	John Conova – Jan Gisholt	55.56
0.88			5	John Newton – Sally Newton	54.63
0.60			6	Warren Marcus – Florence Marcus	53.01

**Friday Evening Open Pairs**

<b>MP</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Names</b>	<b>PCT</b>
5.33	1			Jerry DiVincenzo – Mike Farrell	62.96
4.00	2			Phil Sharpsteen – Frank Hacker	60.12
3.00	3			June Dorion – Donald Campbell	58.33
2.25	4			Jean Seward – Robert Smith	57.74
1.69	5			Jackie Kimel – David Shaw	56.48
1.26	6			Ellie Hanlon – Mary Savko	56.35
2.95		1	1	Stephen King – Gregory Udell	54.40
2.21		2		Elizabeth vonRiesenfelder – Carl Beresin	53.97
1.66		3		Jean-Guy Beliveau – Barbara Fitzgerald	52.08
1.24		4		Abraham Brown – Jean Brown	51.39
1.07		5		Joseph Phillips – Lois Lyon	50.30
1.30		6/7	2	Norma Bellemare – Betty Phelps	50.00
0.70		6/7		C Edward Midgley – Laura Midgley	50.00
0.97			3	Michael Zelkin – E Zelkin	48.81
0.73			4	David Wooden – Mae Beck	46.76

### Friday Evening 299er Pairs

MP		Names	PCT
1.31	1	Mary Ellen Nevin – Robert Nevin	64.00
0.98	2	Thomas Holmes – Paul Ewell	59.00

### Saturday Afternoon Open Pairs

MP	A	B	C	Names	PCT
6.17	1			Sandra Nelson – William Nelson	73.44
4.63	2			Phyllis Bassen – Jean Seward	66.44
3.47	3			Robert Donald – Diane Burger	65.11
2.60	4			Patricia DiVincenzo – Kathy Farrell	63.89
1.95	5			Frank Hacker – Phil Sharpsteen	62.96
3.88	6	1		Gerald Herzlich – Donald Weinstein	59.95
2.91		2		Thomas Osmer – Barbara Fitzgerald	57.87
1.91		3/4		Nancy Lolli – Barbara Philpet	57.41
1.92		3/4		Kimberly Gilman – Robin Hillyard	57.41
2.17		5	1	Michael Zelkin – E Zelkin	56.48
0.92		6		Paul Wolf II – Lance Ribeiro	56.02
1.63			2	Mark Adair – Vivienne Adair	55.79
1.22			3	Jeffrey Weill – Penny Weill	53.47
0.92			4	Lois Grant – G Douglas Grant	53.24
0.69			5	Susan King – Stephen King	51.85
0.81			6	Penelope Daly – Mary Lynch	50.69

### Saturday Evening Flight B/C Pairs

MP	B	C	Names	PCT
2.95	1		Bonnie Clouser – Mary Tierney	68.75
2.21	2		Paul Wolf II – Kimberly Gilman	66.20
1.45	3/4		Lois Lyon – Joseph Phillips	58.10
1.84	3/4	1	Sally Newton – John Newton	58.10
0.93	5		C Edward Midgley – Laura Midgley	57.84
1.38	6	2	G Douglas Grant – Lois Grant	57.64
1.04		3	Stephen King – Susan King	55.79
0.78		4	David Wooden – Mae Beck	51.85
0.61		5	Carlos Galvan – Bertrand Nadeau	50.93

### Saturday Evening Flight A Pairs

MP		Names	PCT
4.67	1	Patricia DiVincenzo – Kathy Farrell	58.50
3.07	2/3	June Dorion – Donald Campbell	55.00
3.07	2/3	Wayne Hersey – Bryant Jones	55.00
1.97	4	Diane Burger – Robert Donald	52.50

### Sunday Open Swiss Teams

MP	A	B	C	Names	SCORE
8.00	1			Robert Donald – Sandra Nelson William Nelson – Diane Burger	118
6.00	2			Jerry DiVincenzo – Patricia DiVincenzo Kathy Farrell – Mike Farrell	110
4.50	3			Andy Avery – Paul Cohen Ellie Hanlon – Mary Savko	102
3.38	4			William Dubay – Judy Dubay Donald Cohen – Susan Cohen	98
2.53	5			E Zelkin – Michael Zelkin Dianne Bonney – Jack Bonney	93
1.90	6			Wayne Burt – Daniel McGuire Mark Conner – Bruce Downing	92
4.42		1		Richard Underwood – Joanne Schlang David Pratt – Teri Landin	89
3.32		2		Edward Gove – Rose Gove Katharine White – Sally Warner	86
2.49		3		Robin Hillyard – Kimberly Gilman Paul Wolf II – Lance Ribeiro	85
2.27		4	1	Jacqueline Walker – Thomas Cronin Lorraine Streeter – Carl Payne Jr.	79

## PLAY TO TRICK ONE

By Frank Hacker

Many contracts come to grief because of careless declarer play at trick one. It really is a shame to go down because of a mistake on the first card you play. Before you call for a card from dummy at trick 1, you should.

Count your winners  
Count your losers  
Identify the dangers  
Consider clues from the bidding  
Formulate a plan

Here are some sample hands

- You are south in a contract of 5 spades after the auction

South	West	North	East
1S	5C	5S	all pass

Opening Lead:                      K of clubs

		S	KJ43		
		H	K87		
		D	A62		
		C	A43		
S	----			S	652
H	Q106			H	J932
D	7			D	QJ10983
C	KQJ1098765			C	----
		S	AQ10987		
		H	A54		
		D	K54		
		C	2		

You have 6 spade tricks, 2 heart tricks, 2 diamond tricks and 1 club trick for a total of 11. It would really be a disgrace to go down. That's exactly what will happen, however, if you play the ace of clubs at trick 1. East will trump and down you go. Didn't you see West's 5 club bid? You are not obligated to play the ace at trick 1. You should duck the first club and the second as well. Trump the second club in your hand, draw trump. That way, you'll still have the club ace in dummy to take care of a red suit loser.

2. Once again you are South, this time in a 3NT contract. The opening lead is the 6 of spades.

		S	QJ2		
		H	765		
		D	KQJ109		
		C	54		
S	K10863			S	97
H	Q1032			H	J98
D	752			D	A86
C	10			C	QJ982
		S	A54		
		H	AK4		
		D	43		
		C	AK763		

The opening lead has given you a "free finesse" in spades. You have 6 tricks outside of diamonds, so you will need 3 diamond tricks (as you can see, clubs are going nowhere) to make your contract. Let's suppose you win trick 1 with dummy's queen of spades and then lead the king of diamonds. The defense will win the second diamond trick. This will establish your diamonds, but, unfortunately, you will have no entry to dummy. To avoid this problem, you must avoid the instinctive play of the queen of spades at trick 1. If you play low from dummy at trick 1 and win in your hand with the ace of spades, you will be able later to force an entry to dummy with one of dummy's spade honors.

3. You are South in a 4 spade contract. The opening lead is the 5 of hearts.

This contract seems almost too easy. The opening lead has given you the heart finesse. You can pitch one of dummy's clubs on your second diamond winner, making either 4 or 5 depending on the trump split.

		S	1098765
		H	KJ2
		D	A
		C	A54
S	----		
H	9765	S	AK
D	96432	H	Q83
C	KJ86	D	J10875
		C	Q109
		S	QJ432
		H	A104
		D	KQ
		C	732

Let's say you play low from dummy at trick 1 and pick up the queen of hearts with your ace. You lead a trump to East's ace. East returns a club and all of a sudden you have a problem. There is no entry to your hand to take the club pitch. You'll have to lose 2 club tricks and 2 spade tricks. You should have played the jack of hearts at trick 1. After East covers, you'll be able to use the 10 as an entry. If East doesn't cover, you'll still have the ace.

## PATRONS OF TABLE TALK

By Dave Shaw

Here is a current list of Patrons of Table Talk – those who have supported Table Talk over the past 12 months by donating \$10 to the Vermont Bridge Association – by month. Table Talk is, by far, the greatest expense of the VBA. More than a decade ago, it was suggested that we ask our members to support Table Talk in this way and the response has been excellent. We thank those of you who are Patrons and encourage others to become Patrons of our quarterly newsletter - our means of communication with our more than 400 members.

A corollary of the support from Patrons by VBA members is that, for someone who is not a VBA member but wants to receive Table Talk, they can become Patrons of Table Talk.

To renew your patronage or become a Patron of Table Talk, please bring a \$10 check payable to the VBA or \$10 cash to the President's Cub Annual Meeting game on October 7<sup>th</sup> or send a check for \$10 payable to the VBA to Ron Plante, VBA Treasurer, 36 South Street, Burlington, VT 05401.

Humble and abject apologies to anyone inadvertently omitted

Linda Baker	Theresa Ingram
Sheila Barton	Dave Jarmy
Connie and Jean-Guy Beliveau	Jackie Kimel
Blanche and Paul Bonnette	Karen Kristiansen
Ruth and Ed Brass	Penny Lane
Charles Brewster	Adelaide Lapham
Jean and Abe Brown	Diana Limoge
Lynn Carew	Nancy Lolli
Dot Carpenter	Patricia Merrill
Ken Cestone	Marc Monheimer
Rhoda Chickering	Courtney Nelson
Bonnie Clouser	John Newton
Paul Clouser	Tom Osmer
Sandy Desilets	Larry Rawls
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Jay Friedenson	Babette and Michael Rogers
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Jim Hanley	Phil Sharpsteen
Ellie Hanlon	Aurora Shea
Wayne Hersey	Gloria Singer
Sally Holt	Maria and Thomas Walsh
Marion and Dick Hong	Jackie and Neil Zierler

## COMING EVENTS

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Oct 7          | President's Cup (VBA annual meeting)<br>\$25 per pair (subsidized by the VBA)<br>2 sessions of bridge with dinner<br>1 <sup>st</sup> session at 10:30 |
| Oct 8-14       | Regional, Danbury, CT – Sheraton Danbury Hotel<br>(note this is a NY regional)  |
| Oct 26-28      | Vermont Fall Sectional, Killington, VT<br>(See flyer at end of this issue)  |
| Nov 7-11       | New England Masters Regional, Holiday Inn, Mansfield, MA  |
| Nov 22 – Dec 2 | Fall National Tournament – Host Hotel is San Francisco Marriott   |
| Dec 1          | Dave and Lyn Perrin Appreciation Pairs, Burlington Bridge<br>Academy (See detailed notice this issue)   |

# Dave & Lyn Perrin Appreciation Pairs

Saturday December 1, 2007

Place: Burlington Bridge Academy  
7 Green Tree Drive, South Burlington

\$25.00 per person

Continental breakfast snacks at 10:00

1<sup>st</sup> Session at 10:30

2<sup>nd</sup> Session ~ 3:45

Between sessions a sumptuous meal

***Appetizers***

Meat Balls

Shrimp with Cocktail Sauce

***Featuring***

Roast Turkey; Dressing; Gravy

Spiral Ham

Cheesy Potatoes

Four Bean Salad; Green Beans

Cranberry Fluff

Garden Salad

Rolls & Butter

***Dessert will be a selection of***

Pies

Cheesecake

Pastry

Coffee and Tea are available all day

Please Pre-Register

[Mrbridge2@comcast.net](mailto:Mrbridge2@comcast.net) or (802)658-0144

## Vermont Fall Sectional

October 26, 27, 28, 2007

Cortina Inn and Resort, Killington, Vermont

**Sanction: S0710087**

Friday Oct. 26<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. 27<sup>th</sup>

- 9:30AM K-O Teams** , *Semi Finals*  
Open Pairs, Stratified
- 1:00PM Open Pairs, Stratified**  
Newcomer Pairs, Stratified  
*K-O Teams, Finals*
- 7:00PM Open Pairs, Stratiflighted**  
A: (separate event) 0 to 100,000  
B: 750 to 1500  
C: 300 to 750  
D: 0 to 300

Sunday Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>

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

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

**Price per session: \$8 (\$11 Canadian), \$1 additional for Unpaid or Non-ACBL members**

**Director: Dave Marshall**

**Partnerships and information: Jackie Kimel (802) 864-4321**

The Cortina Inn and Resort is a four-season resort hotel offering the atmosphere of an elegant country inn with the amenities of a large hotel. There are many Spa and fitness facilities including tennis, indoor pool, and whirlpool and hiking trails. Two restaurants are available. Additional opportunities can be obtained from the website [www.cortinainn.com](http://www.cortinainn.com).

Superior room	\$149	\$189
Queen deluxe	\$159	\$199
King deluxe	\$169	\$209

Package includes 2 nights stay with 2 breakfast buffets per person and a \$10 per person food voucher towards dinner in Zola's Grille. Vermont rooms and meals tax (9%) is not included in the above rates.

**IMPORTANT:** Sometime during the 2:00PM to 3:30PM period on Sunday, there will be a short break between rounds of the Swiss Teams so that you may pick up a pre-paid order for a sandwich lunch. The order form for the lunch break will be available throughout the weekend. If you want a sandwich on Sunday afternoon, please complete the order form and take it to the concession stand. The attendant will accept your order and your money and will mark your order "PAID". You will need that receipt on Sunday afternoon to pick up your order.

Check-in time 3PM. Checkout time 11AM. Reservations 1-800-451-6108 or 802-773-3331. Email: [innsales@sover.net](mailto:innsales@sover.net) Fax: 802- 775-6948.

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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.