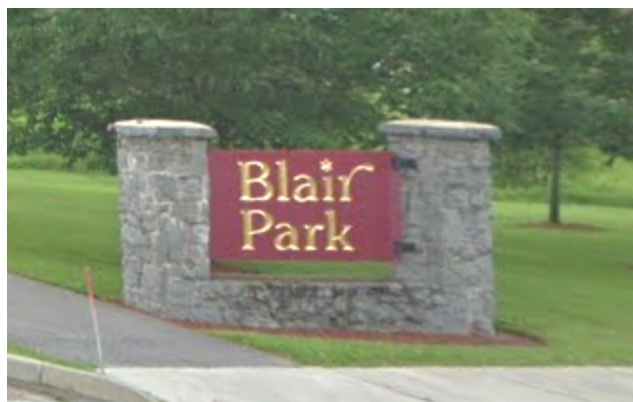


# Bridge in the Park

## *Burlington Bridge Club*

**600 Blair Park Rd.,  
Williston, VT**

[Website: Burlington Bridge Club](http://www.burlingtonbridgeclub.com)



### **Tournament Success, Again!**

The recent District 25 Regional in Nashua, NH, saw 17 Vermonters bring home some “pigmented” (red or gold) masterpoints. These happy players were: Steve Ackerman, Rhoda Chickering, Sandy Desilets, Nick Ecker-Racz, Deidre Ellerson, Margaret Fanning, Ellie Hanlon, Kim Likakis, Marvelene and Keith Richards, Mary Savko, Phil Sharpsteen, Stuart Showalter, Jon Stokes, Barb Sullenger, and Lucy Trombley.



As you can see, the tourney drew a large crowd (about 80% of pre-COVID attendance), and folks especially liked the world premier of the “Bracketed Pairs” format in which pairs are grouped in sections according to their masterpoint levels.

As District President Sue Miguel explained, “In bracketed pairs you only play against your own kind. That’s different than playing in a stratified Open game where a

newcomer could face a couple of Grand Life Masters.”

The format got strong reviews from all participants, and Sue expects it to be offered in future District events. ■

### **Upcoming Tournaments**

The next Vermont tournaments are the [Summer Sectional](#) at Quechee, July 13-14, the [Fall Sectional](#) August 23-25, and the [Halloween Sectional](#), October 25-27. The fall and Halloween tourneys will be held at the Burlington Bridge Club in Williston. (The links lead to the respective tournament flyers.)

You should make plans to attend, because face-to-face bridge is fun, and it’s coming back!

### **The Longest Day**

Our annual Alzheimer’s fundraiser returned by popular demand during the third week of June. Last year we got good publicity for the club while raising money for the Alzheimer’s Association. And this year we collected more than \$3400 to give to the cause.

There’s still time to donate, so please visit our [Team Page](#) and make a contribution in any amount. ■



### **Eight is Enough**

Our Eight is Enough games continue to be successful. The latest one was on Sunday,

June 30, and we had ten teams competing. It was a StaC game, so it awarded master points like a sectional tournament. Twenty-eight players (seven of the teams) mined some silver. Congrats!

Current plans call for a repeat of this fun event on the second Sunday of August and then occasionally during the next few months. ■

### Coming Events

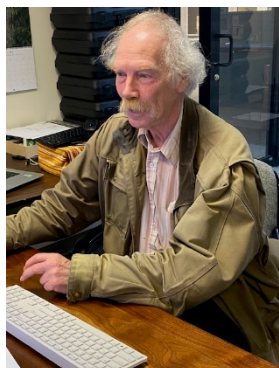
There will be opportunities for extra master points in several “Club Championship” games throughout the rest of the year. We are allowed two such games per sanctioned session per quarter. The dates are listed on the BBC website by opening the “[Calendar](#)” page.

And as long as we’re talking about websites, don’t forget that the [BBC](#), [Unit 175](#), and [District 25](#) sites have tons of valuable information, as does the [ACBL site](#) too, of course. Explore the sites and see for yourself.

### Meet a Director

James McGregor, loyal and long-time director *par excellence*, was born in Canada and lived in Ontario until the age of 12, at which time his father, Ralph, moved the family to Vermont to take a new job. He’s been a Vermont resident ever since.

Jim’s connection to bridge began when Ralph joined the BBC in the early 90s. “I was dragged into the game somewhat reluctantly,” he says. “My father persuaded me to take an introductory course taught by Louise Acker, and then one night he needed a partner for the club game, and I got drafted.”



One thing led to another, and Jim is now the director of three or four games a week. He is also the chief operator of the dealing machine and the one who keeps our supplies well stocked. With

his trademark jacket, frugal spending habits, unique coiffure, and good-natured disposition, Jim is an indispensable and unforgettable member of the BBC team. ■

### What Are the Odds of That?

We recently held a hand in which all 13 cards were red: seven diamonds and six hearts. You might ask, as we did: what are the odds of that?

Well, the chance that the first one would be red is 26/52, or 50%. The chance that the next one would be red is 25/51, about 49%. The next is 24/50 (48%), etc. down through 14/40 (35%). And the odds of *all* of them being red is the product of the individual probabilities:

$$(26/52) \times (25/51) \times \dots \times (14/40) \approx 0.00164\%$$

In scientific notation, that’s  $1.64 \times 10^{-5}$ . In ordinary English, that’s less than two one-thousandths of one percent!

No matter how you write it, don’t hold your breath expecting to see another hand like that anytime soon.

### Heard Around the Bridge Table

“They say winning isn’t everything. I guess I’ll have to take their word for it.”

“No, those bruises on my shins aren’t from playing soccer, they’re from my partner.”

“My idea of exercise is sitting East-West.”

“Sorry, partner. I would have led my singleton, but it was so small I couldn’t see it.” ■

