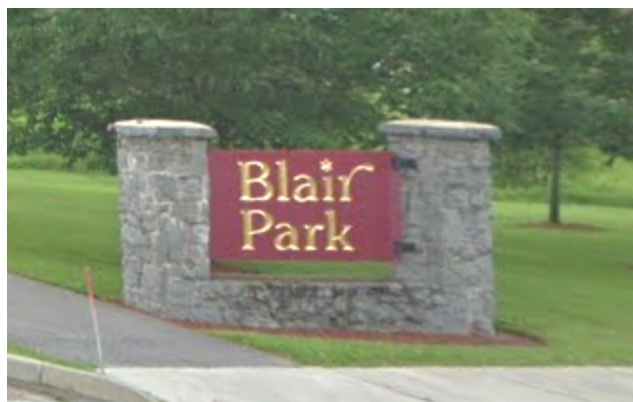


Bridge in the Park

Burlington Bridge Club

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

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



Team Games

Our Eight is Enough team games continue to be successful. We had twelve tables for the April 28 game (pictured) and eight on May 19 (due to graduations and other conflicting events).



Many thanks to Donna Hale for setting up the teams, to the directors, and to all who brought food to share.

We plan to repeat the event on **Sunday, June 30**. As before, to sign up you must email Donna Hale (haledonnab@gmail.com) with your and your partner's names and the approximate total number of master points the two of you have. Registration ends on Wednesday of that week. Teams will be announced the day before the event.

The Longest Day

Our Alzheimer's fundraiser will return 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. We hope to repeat that success this year with some extra activities, so please plan to play with us that week and give generously.



To donate or to join the "Vermont Bridge" TLD team please visit our [Team Page](#). Other clubs will join as well so their fundraising activities can get credited to ACBL's efforts.■

The Spring Sectional is Soon!

The VT **Spring Sectional** will be held at the club May 31 to June 2. See the attached flyer for information and make plans to attend.

Vermonters Strike Gold in Regionals

District 25's recent regional tournaments (held in Mansfield and Southbridge, MA) saw some Vermonters bring home gold. These fortunate prospectors were Rhoda Chickering, Diedre Ellison, Margaret Fanning, Donna Hale, Denny and Carolyn Lyster, Paul and Jacki Reardon, Stuart Showalter, and Lucy Trombley. Congrats!

Meet a Member

You probably know Mark Oettenger from his years of service to the BBC, to ACBL Unit 175 (Vermont), and to District 25 (New England). And you might also know that he's a trial lawyer, ski patroller, and occasional bridge teacher. (He's shown at right teaching a newbie the fine points of the game.)



But you probably don't know that he grew up on four continents and lived in Ghana from ages 8 to 14. Mark's father worked for the United Nations, so they moved frequently. That explains Mark's interest in international law and his broad perspective on life.

When asked about his bridge play, Mark replied, "I usually play two over one with a 12-14 range for opening 1NT and upside-down attitude. I don't really understand the value of Flannery, but I'll play whatever my partner wants to play. I just ask that we have clear agreements."

Along those lines, Mark adds, "I like 'default rules' for auctions we've not discussed." His examples of "default rules" include:

- All strange bids are forcing ("ASBAF"),
- All undiscussed bids are as natural as possible, and
- When in doubt, choose the least risky bid.

Good advice from this Life Master.■

Directors' Tales

Bridge Directors take their jobs seriously, but they do have a sense of humor. Here's how Gary Peterson, our usual director for Sectional tournaments, dealt with a particular situation in Mansfield.

After hearing the call, he approached the table and learned that one player felt the declarer was playing too slowly. Here's how the scene unfolded:

PLAYER: Director, please!

GARY: Hi, there! How can I help?

PLAYER: Tempo.

[Pause]

GARY: And a-one, and a-two, and a-three.

PLAYER: Can I have a *real* director, please!



By the way, did you know that all directors have the same last name? Can you guess what it is?

Answer: It's "Please." ■

Facts About Bridge, Adapted from *Table Talk*

For 16 years Mark Oettinger and Ingi Agnarsson wrote a column for the BBC website titled "Table Talk." In their penultimate issue (April of 2021) they listed some facts about duplicate bridge. We have updated that article and repeat some of the information here.

Our national organization, the ACBL, is nearly 90 years old, has more than 130,000 members, and sanctions more than 3.5 million tables of duplicate bridge annually in more than 2,500 clubs and tournaments. It also sanctions about a million tables online each year.

ACBL's national headquarters are in Horn Lake, MS, a suburb of Memphis, TN. It has a budget of more than \$16 million, employs 48 full-time staff, and has 129 tournament directors for its national, regional, and sectional tournaments.

Each of its three annual North American Bridge Championships attract up to 6,500 players, and its regional and sectional tournaments attract many thousands more.

Like all Vermont bridge clubs, the BBC is in Unit 175. The Unit, in turn, is part of District 25, which comprises clubs in all six New England states. Districts run regional tournaments, and Units run sectionals.

As you know, ACBL publishes the monthly *Bridge Bulletin*, which is an exclusive benefit for ACBL members and the best bridge magazine for players at all levels. Some would say the *Bulletin* alone is worth the cost of membership.



The ACBL website, acbl.org, is a trove of helpful information. You'd be well advised to go online and browse. And for more wisdom from Mark and Ingi, go to the

BBC's website and click on [Useful Links](#)
then *Table Talk*.■



Vermont Bridge Association



Spring Sectional

May 31 – June 2, 2024

sanction #2406354

Burlington Bridge Club, 600 Blair Park Road
Suite 150, Williston, VT 05495
www.bridgewebs.com/burlingtonacademy
(802) 872-5722

Friday, May 31, 2024

10:00 am, 2:15 pm Stratified Open Pairs
10:00 am, 2:15 pm Stratified 499er NLM Pairs

Saturday, June 1, 2024

10:00 am, 2:15 pm Stratified Open Pairs
10:00 am, 2:15 pm Stratified 499er NLM Pairs

Sunday, June 2, 2024

10:00 am Stratified Open Swiss Teams, 1st Session
10:00 am Stratified 499er NLM Swiss Teams (one session only)
TBA Stratified Open Swiss Teams, 2nd Session

Stratifications are based on the average of players' masterpoints.
Stratifications may be adjusted at game time to optimize playing conditions.
All pairs games are single session.

Open Strats: A: 2000+ B: 1000 to 2000 C: 0 to 1000
499er Strats: A: 200 to 499 B: 50 to 200 C: 0 to 50
499er games require a 3-table minimum.

Entry Fee: \$10 per session. All entries must be ACBL members.

Non-ACBL members may obtain a **free** 120-day guest membership at ACBL.ORG.
Players under 100 MPs, play one session and the next session of your choice is free.

Tournament Chair: Donna Hale, email: dbhale1947@aol.com

Tournament Partnerships: Donna Hale, email: dbhale1947@aol.com

Partnerships in advance only. There are no stand-by partners.

Vermont Bridge Association



www.vtbridge.org