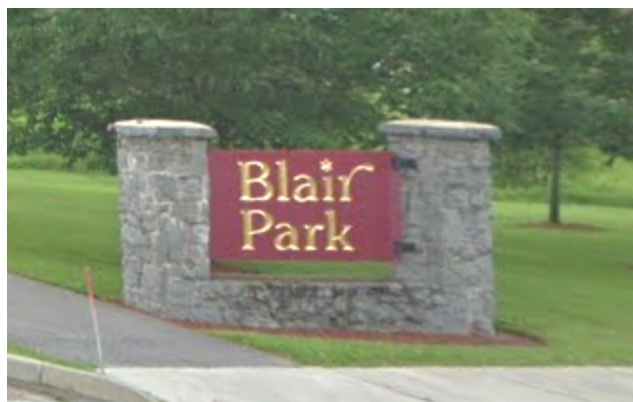


Bridge in the Park

Burlington Bridge Club

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

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



Sectional Tournament Draws Big Crowd

The recently completed Sectional here in Williston was a huge success. We had more than 70 tables and welcomed players from New York, New Hampshire, Canada, Iceland and the Bahamas, in addition to those from all over Vermont.

Sixty-nine players raked in a total of 313.32 silver masterpoints at the tournament. Mary Savko and Ellie Hanlon earned the most, with nearly twenty each. They were followed by Michael Rogers, Nick Ecker-Racz, Ingi Agnarsson, Phil Sharpsteen, Paul Reardon, and Peter Allen, each of whom earned more than ten.

Tournament chair Donna Hale gives a big shout-out to all those who brought food contributions and adds, "For the first time in ages we did not lose money, which is very good news indeed!"



Our next tournament will be the **Halloween Sectional**, October 25-27 at the Burlington Bridge Club in Williston.

You should plan to attend, because face-to-face bridge is fun, and it's coming back!

(The tournament flyer is shown on page three, below.)

Other Events

Our **Eight is Enough** games continue to be successful, drawing more teams than before the pandemic. The next "EIE" will be held this coming **Sunday, September 15**, and we plan to repeat this fun event occasionally over the next few months. Watch your email for details.

October's calendar features a "Senior Pairs" even on **Thursday, October 10**. It will be an **Open game**, not our usual 999 Thursday game. All players must be 60 or older (not an issue for most of us), and the overall and District 25 leaders will earn *silver points*. Due to the increased cost of the ACBL sanction for this event, the entry fee will be \$7 per person. ■

There will also be opportunities for extra master points in several "**Club Championship**" games in the coming months. 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 Unit 175 (vtbridge.org) and District 25 (nebridge.org) sites have tons of valuable information, as does acbl.org too, of course. Explore those web sites and see for yourself. ■

Meet a Member

Stuart Showalter learned bridge from his parents while in high school. He played social bridge through college and graduate school, but then his career and family (two sons and one daughter) took priority and interrupted his enjoyment of the game for more than three decades.

He spent the 1970s in the Navy successfully defending Great Lakes Naval Station, the Navy Hospital San Diego, JAG Headquarters in Arlington, VA, and the Navy Surgeon General in Washington, DC. He adds, with tongue in cheek, “The Viet Cong didn’t get past Guam during my entire term of naval service.”

In 1980 Stuart took a job with a healthcare association in St. Louis, MO. He had a brief stint in a law firm in the mid-90s but then moved on to work in compliance and risk management for healthcare systems in Orlando, FL, and Baton Rouge, LA. He retired in 2010 to be near his parents in Roswell, GA, and after they passed away, he returned to San Diego in 2012 and resumed his acquaintance with bridge, almost by accident.

“I was walking in Balboa Park one day and saw a sign advertising bridge games six days a week,” he says. “I called and found out that they gave beginner lessons, which I sorely needed since much had changed since the days of Charles Goren.” For the next eight years he played regularly at the Redwood Bridge Club, San Diego, and in Unit 539 games in La Jolla. He even served as the secretary of the Unit board.

When his daughter and family moved from San Jose, CA, to Williston, Showalter followed immediately, arriving here in March 2020. He was pleased to discover that the BBC is just half a mile from his new apartment.

Stuart plays regularly in BBC and Unit 175 games, has joined the Unit and BBC boards, and attends occasional tournaments here in New England. He plans to attend the NABC in Las Vegas, this coming December.

When “Manager Emeritus” Don Sharp wanted to step down he tapped Stuart to be his successor.

“I’m amazed at the amount of detail that goes into running a bridge club,” he says, adding, “I’m grateful for the help that Don and our great directors give me. The job would be overwhelming without them.”

“Bridge is my one hobby,” Stuart says. “I’d be really bored and boring without it. Thanks to the Burlington Bridge Club I can come out of my introvert shell and act like a regular member of society.” ■



Z-T Corner

By Etta Kitt

[Ed. Note: With this issue, guest columnist Etta Kitt begins a series of articles that will spotlight how to make the game we love more enjoyable for everyone. She writes the following.]

The BBC is well known for being a friendly, welcoming club, and we think a few reminders about etiquette can make it even more so.

We begin with a mention of ACBL’s **Zero Tolerance Policy**. The Z-T Policy applies to all ACBL tournaments and sanctioned clubs. Its purpose is to create a pleasant atmosphere for everyone. This includes commendable behavior such as:

- Being a good “host” or “guest” at each table
- Greeting others in a friendly manner
- Praising the bidding and/or play of the opponents
- Having your convention card available for the opps to review (this is *required*, not just a nicety)

I will highlight a few more tips in each of the next few issues of *Bridge in the Park*. ■



American Contract Bridge League





Vermont Bridge Association



Halloween Sectional

October 25 - 27, 2024

sanction # 2410351

Burlington Bridge Club, 600 Blair Park Road
Suite 120, Williston, VT 05495

www.bridgewebs.com/burlingtonacademy

(802) 872-5722

Friday, October 25, 2024

10:00 am, 2:15 pm Stratified Open Pairs

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

Saturday, October 26, 2024

10:00 am, 2:15 pm Stratified Open Pairs

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

Sunday, October 27, 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: \$12 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: haledonnab@gmail.com

Tournament Partnerships: Donna Hale, email: haledonnab@gmail.com

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



Vermont Bridge Association

www.vtbridge.org