

Bridge Etiquette

Directors and the committee have decided that at we should have a number of weeks when we focus on and remind players about aspects of bridge etiquette.

Starting in the week of 11th November Directors will remind players of the focus for the week at each of the bridge sessions.

November 11th Players should not fiddle with the bidding box before bidding or not bidding. Doing this gives information (possibly misleading) to your partner or opposition. A poker face is important in bridge. When it is your turn to bid if you pause for a long time then pass the director can be called and can rule that your partner is prevented from taking any further part in the auction.

It is important to leave the bidding box tidy when you have finished with it. If you find an untidy bidding box when you arrive at a table explain you are tidying it before being able to bid.

November 18th At the end of the auction keep the bidding cards on the table until after the first card is led. This is so all players at the table can see how the bidding went.

November 25th Keep your record of tricks won and lost on the table until after the score has been agreed by both sides. This is important so that if there is a disagreement you have the evidence to resolve it.

You should shuffle your cards before returning them to the board, especially in the event of a passout. Failure to do this gives information to people playing the hand next.

December 2nd Talking loudly between boards and discussing hands is discourteous to people still playing at other tables. You may also unwittingly give information away to others still to play the hand you are discussing.

December 9th We should never criticise our partner or other players at table. If as a partnership you need to clarify your play do it after the game.

December 16th
30th If you are using a convention (i.e an unnatural bid) in the auction your partner should alert it using the alert card. This gives your opponents an opportunity to ask for an explanation and you only explain if asked by your opponents.

The points count of 1NT and 2NT openings, and the Stayman Convention and Transfers after a 1NT opening should be announced by your partner rather than alerted. Partner should alert the points range of 2C or 2D openings.

- January 6th Use the stop card to indicate you are jump raising in the auction. Show the stop card before you bid and return it after 10 seconds to the bidding box.
- January 13th If when playing a hand as declarer you wish to claim tricks you can show your hand and explain to your opponents how you will make the contract. Opponents can challenge this. Once you have claimed and there is a query the cards can only be played out if the non-claiming side request and all four players agree. In this case the prior claim is void. Otherwise the director has to be called to adjudicate. Of the two options it is recommended that the director be called.
- January 20th It is OK to call the director immediately to adjudicate over an interpretation of the laws. Common events include revoke, insufficient bid, call out of turn and lead out of turn but there are others.
- January 27th When dummy you should not touch or play any card until asked by your partner.
- February 3rd We should all have system cards which describe the conventions we are using with our partners. Long term partnerships may have a printed card, more ad hoc partnerships should fill out the System/Score Cards available in the club. Opponents are entitled to ask to see your system card. There are some basic system cards available on the EBU website for Acol / Benji Acol that can be printed or downloaded. If downloaded they are amendable to fit the conventions that you play.

Steve Lacey
5th November 2019