

DANNY ON DUPLICATE (9)

Making Boards

Except in badly conducted team events, players seldom "shuffle, deal and play" (the phrase used by directors in a bygone era). When you have to make boards by hand, shuffle thoroughly and deal four piles in simple clockwise rotation just as you would at rubber bridge.

When you have to "make the boards" from printed hand records, the director usually asks you to start by sorting each deck into four suits. After that, several different methods are available.

Prima Donna grabs all four suits and bundles them together, then holding the deck face down, she distributing the cards to all four hands without any help from any other player, so you can admire her skill. *Lone Wolfgang* picks up one of the suits and distributes it among all four hands. *Lazy Susan* takes her own cards from a suit and passes the rest of the suit clockwise around the table.

If you let *Prima Donna* show off, you and the other two players at the table must be careful to check your hands against the hand records, as everyone is responsible for errors.

Lone Wolfgang knocks knuckles when passing cards across the table, and then says, "I have a nine of hearts that doesn't belong to me; who needs it?" or "Who has my five of clubs?" Sometimes players will fail to check carefully and be left with the ♣3 instead of the ♣5, an error for which three players will be responsible, the holders of the ♣3 and ♣5 as well as the player who distributed the club suit. Don't think the error trivial. Not long ago, I captured declarer's ♣3 with my ♣5 at Trick 13 to beat a contract.

Lazy Susan automatically checks each of her suits. If she receives the ♥9 and sees that it doesn't belong in her hand, she simply passes it to her left, so it will eventually reach its proper owner. If she receives the ♣3 when she needs the ♣5, she will pass it to her left, and eventually its owner will place it among his clubs and notice that ♣5 does not belong in his hand.

I have never seen *Super-Lazy Susan* make a board, but she's more efficient still: she skips the preliminary step of sorting the deck into suits, and just passes each stack of 13 cards around the table letting each player take the cards that belong to his own hand.