

## **To Call or Not to Call --- The Director**

by Connie Hrabchak

Bridge is a game — and games have rules. Rules are made to ensure that a game is played fairly for all the players involved. The players are not expected to know all the rules, but the director is and he/she is there to present the rulings with "Grace".

The director wants to be called at the first notice of a possible infraction. Waiting often negates the possibility of a fair solution. Remember, in fairness to the rest of the players the infraction must be addressed now. Players at other tables will be held accountable for their errors. What is fair for some is fair for all. It is not up to you to come up with a ruling or to be "Mr. nice guy" and say just forget it. Not an option - call the director. So let's reiterate:

**CALLING THE DIRECTOR IS NOT PUNISHMENT!!!** It is to make sure that no unfair advantage is given to either the team making the infraction or their opponents. The infraction is handled such that all teams receive fair and equitable treatment.

All ACBL rules have been put together to promote fairness and the director should be called, not as a demand for vengeance but rather for information and fairness.

When called, the director will listen to the problem as stated by the one who called. Read this again. He/she (director only) may ask questions of other players to better understand the situation. The director will then give a ruling. If there are player options involved and decisions to be made, the director must then give all the options and make sure they are understood before a choice is accepted. This is important as many players are unfamiliar with their options and how their decision may affect the outcome of their game and by consequence the games of the entire field.

Directors are thoughtful (mostly) and easy to deal with. Remember, their job is made easier if they are called to help sooner rather than later.

**HELP THEM TO HELP US**