

PROMOTING FRIENDLY BRIDGE AT BARNSTAPLE

Remember Bridge is only a game
Presumably we play the game because we enjoy it.
The opponents are also entitled to their enjoyment.
We need opponents or we will not have a game.

Laws The EBU laws of bridge apply, but we would wish this to be a friendly club which really welcomes less experienced players, there are a few ways in which we could approach the game. Variations from the strict laws are in italics.

A player may politely point out any minor infraction of the rules, such as insufficient bidding or lead out of turn to their opponents but they may **not** suggest any rectification such as bidding or lead restriction or trick transfer; that is the role of the director.

It is not the role of a more experienced player to tell a weaker player that a particular bid (or play) is **wrong**, if it is within the laws of bridge, even if that bid has unusual points or shape.

Please be aware that a remark or director call which the experienced player considers normal may be stressful to an inexperienced player, or received as an accusation of cheating.

Our objective should be to win by our own skill at bridge not by taking advantage of our opponent's lack of understanding of rules and regulations.

Bidding Boxes Players should make up their mind before touching any card in the bidding box. Indecision between bids is effectively giving partner unauthorised information and should be avoided. In addition do not pick out a stop card and then pause before selecting a jump bid.

A misbid may be changed when the following conditions are fulfilled:

- 1 The player has inadvertently taken out the wrong bidding card and then corrects, or attempts to correct it, as soon as the error is noticed.
- 2 The player's partner has not made a bid yet. The misbid may be corrected later than this but the opposition may wish to get the director to clarify any implications.

Please be understanding of new or less experienced players.

System All systems are allowed but the majority play Acol or Benji Acol.

If you play another system then you should have a completed convention cards and inform the opposition when you first meet and alert and explain bids to less experienced players **helpfully**.

Regular partnerships should have a convention card.

Psyches are opening bids or overcalls in short suits or with points well below normal

Please do not overuse psyches and do not psyche against less experienced players.

The 1NT opening *Whatever your range please never open more than **one** point out-of that range.*

A 1NT opening should be balanced although **one** card variations from the normal patterns are permissible. (Normal 3334, 2344, 2335)

Alerts & Announcements In general, alert bids or doubles that are not 'standard'.

Announce '12-14' or '15-17' or whatever when partner opens 1NT.

State 'Stayman' or suit shown by transfer bid if partner makes that bid over your 1NT opening.

If a 1♣ opening can be 2 card you should announce 'may be short'

Announce standard opening two bids as weak or strong (forcing or non-forcing) Alert others.

Please be very understanding of incorrect alerts and announcements, the EBU rules are illogical.

If your partner fails to announce or alert a bid, or is incorrect in an explanation

Declarer or dummy tell the opponents before the opening lead and call the director if necessary.

Defenders should say nothing (you may be helping partner). The director can be called at the end of play if declarer feels that he was harmed.

Questions During the auction, you may ask questions (to the partner of the opponent who made the bid) at your turn only. You may **not** ask a question as a prompt to your partner. If you are defending and you are on lead, you may ask questions before leading. When you lead, it should be face down. Your partner may then ask questions before the lead is revealed. *We need to be realistic and sympathetic in the way less experienced players question and are questioned, they may well not understand or know the implication of or answer to a question.*

Insufficient Bids After an insufficient bid the next bidder may accept that bid by bidding or passing in which case bidding continues from the lower level. If the bid is not accepted EBU rules are now less strict re making good of an insufficient bid. An alternative bid may be substituted if it has a similar meaning to the bid actually made. e.g. Partner opens 1♦ and you respond 1♥ not noticing an intervening 1♠ overcall. You are allowed to change your bid to a negative double (which means the same as 1♥ if there was no overcall) you do not have to bid 2♥. If an acceptable alternative bid is not made there are bidding and lead implications which the director will explain..

Hesitation During the bidding, players need to think, and if they think for some time and then bid that's fine. But if they think for a time and pass then their partner has unauthorised information. Partner is **NOT** banned from the auction but must not take advantage of the extra information. This means that if he makes a bid it must be one that most players might make with his hand. The opposition can reserve their rights by asking if the opponents agree there was hesitation, but they may not tell the player what to do. Please note inexperienced players do not notice short hesitations, very often hesitate when they have nothing to consider and may not understand the problem. In particular they may consider a sharp attitude in this as an accusation of cheating. If hesitation is not agreed the director should be called. At the end of the hand, if the opposition think they have been damaged, the director may be called, and may adjust the contract and score.

Dummy play *Some inexperienced dummies will play an obvious card, eg a singleton as soon as the previous player has played, please be understanding of this error.*

Revokes It's up to you what you do when the opposition revoke and it is not immediately spotted and made good. The rules say to call the director and this is what you should do if play has continued. *However, if the revoke is easily rectified and does not affect other tricks it is permissible to allow it to be corrected without penalty.*

Reviewing the cards played to a trick The rules of bridge do not allow you to see the last trick after everybody has turned their card over. *With less experienced players it is best to relax this rule so that anyone may see the cards for the last trick before any card is played to the next one.*

Claims made by more experienced players are not well understood by the less experienced. *Please only claim if **all** trumps are drawn and **one** hand is unbeatable or there is a simple crossruff.*

If a claim is contested either defender may call the director. One defendant conceding does **not** prevent the other contesting the claim. *Some inexperienced players may not understand a claim and may reasonably ask the claimant to play the hand out without actually contesting the claim.*

Cards on the Table During the play, players should place the cards played in the correct orientation - lengthways when the trick is won and sideways when lost. At the end of the deal the number of tricks should be agreed and written on the traveler **before** the cards are touched..

If there is a dispute about tricks won or a revoke the four players may go through the tricks in turn but keeping their own cards in the correct order. If the director is called he/she will not usually be on the side of a player who no longer has their cards laid out 'correctly'.

Remember Most bridge clubs feel a need to claim to be friendly
The EBU feels a need to encourage Best Behaviour @ Bridge
There's no smoke without fire.
Do YOU do all you can to make Barnstaple a friendly club.