

MARCH NEWS FROM CBC

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Attention! A new game is being added to our Tuesday line up. The first and third Tuesday of the month, or ANY Tuesday when we do not have our team game or 4 Is Enough game we will offer an OPEN pairs game. Watch for the announcement of when we begin this...

President's Corner

A FEW WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT:

With the return of Daylight Savings Time, we've had to our clocks (thank goodness). I would prefer that it was always in force...but I don't always get my way! Here at CBC, we have some changes coming---and none of these changes will likely suit everyone. Our Board makes decisions trying to do the best for the ongoing success of our Club.

We continue to experience issues with some of our members being reluctant to register for our games. Regardless of who (or how many) players are registered for a game, PLEASE register as soon as you know that you want to play. If the game doesn't make...it doesn't make! What is happening is that some members go online, see that there are only a few players signed up, and decide not to register – and that causes a “snowball effect”. CBC has been very flexible about not cancelling games; this may not be the case in the future. Please register as early as you can for all of our games...thanks in advance!



Regarding another upcoming change, how many of you know that there is a “Partnership Desk” on our website? Technology is undeniably continuing to expand and will need to be used more and more as time passes. Pre-pandemic, the CBC’s Partnership Desk was pretty active. Not so much since we have reopened. Plans are in the works to revitalize this aspect of our website. I have volunteered to oversee that effort when my term as President ends on May 31, 2024. Look for more info on this in the near future.



Our Club was very fortunate when Laura Bro volunteered to Chair CBC’s Education Committee...she’s doing a great job...but, she’s just one person and can use some help! If you have a bit of time to volunteer to help Laura, please contact her. She has numerous/random slots that need to be filled. It takes a village, Y’all!



Another possible change: Inasmuch as the CBC Bylaws had not been updated in several years, the Board authorized the formation of a committee to make a bylaws revision proposal. This arduous task has been completed; a copy of the proposed revised bylaws has been emailed to members; additionally, a copy has been posted on the bulletin board at the Club. Our current Bylaws require that any bylaw revisions be voted on by the membership. This vote will occur at our Annual Meeting on May 17, 2024. Please contact any CBC officer or board member, if you have questions.

Not a change...but a new concept: The CBC Board always has the vibrancy and vitality of our Club at the forefront of our thinking. Maintaining and increasing our membership is a key factor. We are planning to host an Open House event (probably in June or July). The Board has budgeted funds for advertising this event—we will be targeting people who already play bridge and encouraging them to investigate our Club and duplicate bridge. We all know some of these players. Please start making a list of these folks; also, think of places that you might be able to post a flyer that we will be producing. We will be asking you to help with this campaign!

I hope you all are enjoying the advent of Spring...a time of renewal and resurgence. I’m proud of the current status of CBC and excited and enthusiastic about our plans for the future. I hope you will be a part of all that our future holds. AND, I hope I see you soon and often at the Columbia Bridge Club.

Judy

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Seven Things You May Be Doing at the Table That You Should Not Do

By
Jack Self

In this article I am going to discuss 7 things you may be doing at the bridge table and may not even know that you are doing them. And I am pretty sure you are not doing them on purpose. For whatever reason, these are 7 things you should avoid doing.

1. Making a bid and then looking at your partner. I see this all the time by players of all levels from beginners to those who have been playing since Neil Armstrong took that one giant leap for mankind on the Moon. A player might make an opening bid and then look at partner to see how he or she reacts to the bid. Or perhaps one of the opponents will open 1 Heart and the player will overcall 2 Clubs and, again, look at partner for a reaction. The playerc may not even be aware that he or she is doing this, but the opponents sure do notice. An ethical player will go out of the way to make sure that he or she is not committing this offense. The wisest thing to do is to make your bid and then look back down at your hand. Just act like you made the best bid a bridge player ever made and don't care what partner thinks about it.

2. Leading a card and looking at your partner. This is similar to making the bid and looking at partner. When you do this you are subconsciously looking at partner for approval of your lead. It is a bad habit to get into and even harder habit to break. The ethical player will take pains to not look at partner after a lead. The best thing to do is to turn your head and look at what your next opponent plays. But DON'T stare at the opponent; instead, look at the table where the opponent will lay his or her card down.

3. Making a face when your partner forgets to alert one of your calls or gives an incorrect explanation of your bid to the opponents. Perhaps you and your partner have decided to play the Drury convention. Finally, you partner opens 1 Spade in third chair and after the next player passes, you reach into the bidding box and lay down the 2 Club card showing a limit raise in spades with 3 card support. But your partner does not alert and you know he or she has forgotten. Don't sigh, don't suddenly sit up taller in your chair, don't reach down and touch the 2 Club card, don't sneak a peek at your own convention card, and don't let your eyes suddenly get very large. Yes, it is hard to not do some of these things but an ethical player will not do anything that has a chance of conveying to partner what he or she has done. (Just remember that, if you are on the declaring side, you must wait until the bidding is over and tell the opponents about your partner's mistake before the opening lead is made).

4. Laying your bid down with undue emphasis. I saw an A level player do this very thing a while back. Her partner opened 1 Spade and she responded with a Bergen raise by picking out the 3 Club bid and forcefully and dramatically place it on the table. (Her partner forgot it anyway). Did she bid this way on purpose? Don't know. Don't care. It is wrong regardless of the reason.

5. Rearranging your hand after you play your last card of some suit. This is one of the worse things you can do. You play your last card of a suit and then rearrange your hand so that black and red suits are alternating. And, yes, everyone at the table saw you do that and they all know that you are now void in that suit. And, don't try to put your card below the table and rearrange them out of sight. Trust me, it will still be noticed by the others at the table. Just leave your hand the way it is. Create a little bid to space between the hearts and diamonds if you must but don't rearrange your hand.

6. Snapping your cards when you play them. We all know people who do this and some people are really annoyed by it. It really doesn't bother me too much unless the snapping gets louder as declarer is surer of making the contract. The ironic thing about card snapping is that some of the worst card snappers I know are also ones that complain about others doing it.

7. Staring Intently at an Opponent While Waiting for a Bid or Play. It is a biological fact that staring is considered to be an intimidating and aggressive action in the animal kingdom. While I wouldn't go so far as to compare wild animals to bridge players, the result is still the same. Staring intently at another player can make the object of the stare uncomfortable. It is also rude. That does not mean you cannot look at your opponents but it does mean it is impolite to stare at them.



Back in 2017, the ACBL addressed an issue where partners making insufficient bids in an auction were causing auctions to complete in what was deemed an unfair manner to the offending side. While Directors never want to have a situation where an offending side benefits from unauthorized information, the extreme opposite of that was found to occur all too often with the offending side hurt excessively due to forced subsequent passes. In other words, the cure for the insufficient bid situation went too far. That's when the concept of Comparable Calls were introduced.

The short version of a Comparable Call is when **the offending partner can substitute a sufficient call that has as, or more specific, a meaning than the original meaning of the insufficient call.** This seems like a win-win situation for everyone so long as the offending side is not benefiting from any information that the insufficient call provided. At the end of the day, what everyone at the table (plus the Director!) should want is a fair result. If a substituted call by the offending



Southeast Bridge Club Consortium offers many opportunities for online bridge playing. Lot of masterpoints are earned by players of all levels. If you have played on Bridge Base you know all that. Here is an interesting fact - This consortium has given Columbia Bridge Club \$20,916.45 since

player can be made with what is considered to be a comparable call, then the fair result (for good or bad to both side) can be achieved.

The practice of allowing comparable calls is encouraged by ACBL Directors, however there are some limitations that need to be adhered to. First and foremost is that no Director should ever make a suggestion to a player as to what they would do, or even provide a list of options. Instead, Directors must let the players decide what action to take on their own with the only assistance being to tell a player (privately away from the table) if they would consider the player-proposed call to be comparable or not before heading back to the table. That action is not considered "coaching", rather it's merely an affirmation of whether the new substituted call would be legal once made. Whether it's ultimately a good choice or not should have no bearing to the Director. The main thing is acknowledging to the offending player that their new (self-chosen!) call would be considered comparable or not.

This month's ACBL Bulletin has a great Q&A entry in the Ruling the Game section. In that article, a player had opened 2NT (balanced 20-22) but their partner had thought they opened 2C. The problem was that the offending player called 2D (waiting) in response to the 2NT call, and the Director was called to the table due to the insufficient bid. Back in the olden days, if an insufficient bid that was conventional OR the sufficient version of that was conventional then the partner of the person making the insufficient call would have been barred from the auction. Talk about harsh!

What should have happened was that the player making the insufficient call should have been taken away from the table for a private 1-on-1 with the Director. The offending player had thought the opener called 2C, but now realized that it was 2NT instead. They would prefer to substitute a 3C (Stayman) call as they have a 4-card major, and this is an action that on the surface seems odd (going from 2D waiting to 3C Stayman), however let's go back to the desired effect of Comparable Calls. A 3C substituted call

***COVID shut down
face-to-face clubs.***

***Southeast Bridge Club
Consortium is
continuing to
contribute to CBC if
players associated
with CBC choose their
online clubs. There
clubs are listed on
BBO as
SOUTHEAST/KNOX
(9:30 & 1:05), BIG
ORANGE (7:05) and
The 749er CLUB.***

***This relationship
benefits everyone,
players and your local
club. When you
choose your online
game, please choose
Southeast Bridge
Club's games.***



It is that time of year! Please get a nomination form from Susan McFadden or Donna Hunter. There will be some placed at the Directors Desk.

Shelby King is leaving her six year term so we need to nominate a VP for a six year term as VP, President and Past President.
Ellis is leaving his At Large position.

should be considered as “as or more specific” than the original 2D waiting call, and there isn’t any unauthorized information the 2C opener is receiving. A fair result can now be achieved. I do believe that the Director should not offer the 3C option to the offending player, rather they could only tell them whether they consider it as comparable or not.

Remember that Director rulings involving redress are not intended to punish offending players, rather they are intended to restore equity in situations to be able to achieve fair results. As always, if you are in doubt about an action you intend to take, you can always first consult with a Director as to its legality.

Play well!

Michael Bitonti
Head Director - CBC

Melissa is also leaving our Board as an At Large members. Members must have played at least 12 times in the past year, be in good standing and the VP should be a member for at least 3 years. The member needs to agree to run and the nominee must run for just one.

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MARCH 2024

Platinum Life Master Lucas
Lebioda

Regional Master Sarah
Bannister

"Sam" Siavash
Karbasizadeh

Loretta McPherson
Sally McWilliams

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