



BRIDGE ON THE EDGE, INC.

**A NOT FOR PROFIT BRIDGE CLUB OWNED BY ITS MEMBERS
SERVING THE ST. JOHN'S DUPLICATE BRIDGE COMMUNITY**



January 2019

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GREETING FROM PRESIDENT HEIDI

Provito in Altum/ Launch Forth into the Deep

Memorial University's motto *Provito in Altum* is timely. Dive in! In MMXIX let's play lots of bridge and gain more technical proficiency. With luck, we will earn plenty of master points with our BOTE bridge buddies. Opportunities and challenges await.

MUN's motto also aptly describes the 2016 creation of Bridge on the Edge as a not for-profit duplicate bridge club. That original initiative required a lot of commitment, and credit is due to all who pitched in. Volunteer service made it all happen. Incredibly, we now have grown to 189 paid members.

We've comfortably settled into the club rooms at the Swiler's. We've moved to five games a week (seriously, how much do we all love the game?), and we've offered a variety of bridge lessons. We've established a significant war chest, thanks to prudent management of club finances. And we've had fun times together at our social events.

Nearly all Canadian non-profits are managed by a volunteer board of directors. Our BOTE Administrative Board is elected annually, and our next AGM is set for May 28th, 2019. We have struck a Nominations Committee to encourage participation. Please consider stepping up and serving our club as it expands to meet the needs of our growing membership.

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January is a time of new beginnings, of resolutions to do and be better. With this in mind we have focused our January issue on some things that might help your understanding of the rules of the game of bridge. We hope you find the articles helpful. We have also showcased some of the learning/playing opportunities that our members have availed of in the past year ... food for thought as you make your travel plans for the coming year.

All the best for 2019 from Pat and Janet!!





Getting to Know You

Barb Baldwin



She's a walker, a baker, a bridge player and a volunteer, not necessarily in that order. Following a nudge from her friend Sandra Tobin, Barb signed up for beginner's bridge lessons at the Mews Centre 8 years ago. The lessons quickly dispelled any illusions that she was anything other than that, a beginner, and she settled in for 3 sessions. After that, in typical Barb fashion, she dove head first into competitive bridge (*no fooling around there*) and hasn't looked back since.

Although she enjoys the competitive aspect of the game, she doesn't take it too seriously and enjoys playing with partners who feel the same way. She has 3 regular partners, all of whom she credits with having upped the caliber of her game. Her son and his family live in Georgia, where she also plays with a now-regular partner and a great group of friends. Last winter they attended a tournament in Pine Mountain, Ga., her first and, hopefully, not last.

Prior to taking up bridge, Barb's husband required full-time care which kept her fully occupied day and night. Sadly, he passed away just over 3 years ago.

These days, in addition to playing bridge 3 afternoons a week, she heads up a Cardiac Rehabilitation Group based at the NL Sports Plex 3 mornings a week, as a result of having had open heart surgery herself over 20 years ago. She volunteers at the LSPU Hall and with Team Broken Earth, a St. John's-based non-profit group providing medical assistance to Haiti's earthquake victims, and sings in a church choir. And if that's not enough, after having 2 knees and 2 hips replaced she walks 10 miles a day on a bad day! In her *spare* time she cooks, bakes and entertains. It's the baking that earns her our frequent applause here at BOTE.

When it's all said and done, Barb is happy to be a part of BOTE and to have met so many wonderful friends as a result, and thankful to be looking forward to each and every day with joy.



Ottawa Tournament

by Bev Moore



From October 2nd to October 8th, fourteen members of our club travelled to our nation's capital to participate in the Ottawa Regional Bridge Tournament. We had a ball. Some of us played bridge every morning, afternoon and evening. Others played less, but enjoyed Ottawa's beautiful weather, walking, and taking in all the sights.

Jerry Helms, a regular columnist in the ACBL's monthly magazine, had travelled up from the States and gave a bridge class at lunch time.

Heidi Janes



Bev Moore

Jerry Helms

BOTE members came, conquered and brought home the gold. Every one of us won points – well over 300 of them.



Richard Lash and Tom Dale were the big winners. They were in the top 2%. Only five partnerships won more points than they did. Congratulations. They could have won more if they hadn't generously taken time to play with some of us "C" players in order to help us win points. Thanks boys, it was a great experience.

The most exciting day was Saturday when three teams of BOTE members played Swiss and all twelve of us won Gold. We may be one of the smallest provinces, but that day we carried away the largest purse.

Thanks Ottawa. We had a great time!

Ottawa by Maureen Howard



If you have ever visited Ottawa, bridge may come to mind. After all, just today I crossed the Alexandra Bridge, the MacDonald Bridge and the Chaudire Crossing.

Besides crossing bridges there is a lot to do in Ottawa. My first stop is always The Shoe Box. This great shoe store has been owned and operated by a Lebanese couple, Avo and Andrea Kabakian, since 1981. Avo still has my picture which Andrea took while I danced about their store wearing the blue flowered boots (photo at right) in 2016. Now he looks forward to my visit every year and this year he even wants me to drop in on Saturday to meet his daughter Carla!



Next door to Avo is a great leather store where you will find all sorts of handbags, luggage, and travel accessories. Here I usually add to my Anuschka handbag collection.

Since I was on Sparkes Street I had to locate number 100. Who remembers this ad from my childhood evening newshour? *"This is Lotta Hitschmanova from the Unitarian Service Commission, 100 Sparkes Street, Ottawa, Ontario"*.

All along Sparkes Street you can find great little stores. A short walk takes you to the Rideau Shopping Center and the nearby Byward Market. I found a John Fleuvog store there on Saturday afternoon!

The Gatineau MOSIACS are a must see. You can easily walk from the Marriott, crossing the Alexandra Bridge, or take a short bus ride.



Mother Earth – one of the Gatineau mosaics

The Lady Dive, an Amphibus tour, is great fun. This tour takes you along Wellington Street highlighting Parliament Hill, the Supreme Court building, and other attractions before going over to Gatineau via Chaudire Crossing. A short distance along Rue Laurier (Français since you are now in Quebec) at Jacques Cartier Park, you dive right into the Ottawa River. After a little cruise along the river you leave Gatineau and cross back to Ottawa via the MacDonald Cartier Bridge, passing Notre Dame Cathedral and several embassies en route.



The hop-on-hop-off bus tour gives you another taste of Ottawa. The first bridge you cross on this bus is the Alexandra Bridge. This tour takes you to many attractions including the Canadian War Museum, the Museum of History, and many other scenic places further away ... RCMP stables (where the horses undergo 3 years of training to see if they are suitable for the Musical Ride), the Canadian Aviation and Space Museum, and Lansdowne Park/the Glebe. You drive along the canal for a nice distance on this tour.

The more adventurous can rent a bike. There are a few bike rentals just a short distance from the Marriott. You can join a bike tour or head off on your own like I did. My two hour electric-assist bike ride took me across the Alexandra Bridge to Gatineau and back to Ottawa via the MacDonald Cartier Bridge, passing embassies and other tourist attractions. I even nipped around the Byward Market area.



So whatever kind of bridge you fancy: duplicate, social, kitchen, bridges with fancy arches like the Alexandra, bridges with plain rails like the MacDonald Cartier, bridges called crossings like Chaudire, or the kind of bridges along the Rideau Canal that are raised up to allow boats to cross underneath, Ottawa is sure to have a BRIDGE for you.

Rahul Chandra

Club Manager, Diplomat, Gamer



Rahul Chandra, a familiar face to us all, became our interim Club Manager in February, 2017 and was officially appointed in July, 2017.

He wasn't playing bridge at BOTE at the time, but friends told him the Club was looking for someone to fill the position. He contacted Joan FitzGerald and got the job.

His card career began by playing *Magic: The Gathering* as a grade 9 student at Gonzaga with a group of like-minded friends. Tournaments organized at the Thompson Student Centre, MUN, routinely attracted over 50 players. A group of them taught themselves to play bridge after that, learning by reading books (Rahul still has a fair-sized collection) and through the internet. The only lesson he ever took was one offered by Tom Dale on competitive bidding.

He went on to study Math and Computer Science at the University of Waterloo where he began to play duplicate bridge and to tinker with systems. Returning to St. John's, he continued to play *Magic*, organized tournaments here and judged games, in St. John's and occasionally elsewhere. He played bridge intermittently, sometimes at Bennett Avenue with his friend Peter Deal. Together they played a relatively simple bidding system called "Every Hand an Adventure", which he continues to play with Stephen Outerbridge at BOTE.

By the time Rahul took up his position at BOTE, most of the Club's systems and protocols were already in place, and he learned from Joan FitzGerald 'on the job'. His computer skills proved an invaluable asset. He trained to become a Director by reading up on the Laws (for which he had an aptitude owing to the large number of laws *Magic* involves), and by watching others. At the beginning he directed only when another Director was in the room, and gradually gained proficiency. The test to become a Director is not onerous, he says, and he encourages anyone who might be interested to look into it.

His job as Club Manager requires him to be at the Club before, during and after all ACBL-sanctioned games in order to set up, which includes oversight of the dealing process, and close down. Volunteers, on whom he relies heavily at times, expedite the process. He's also available if instructors need help before or during lessons. Non-bridge days can require a fair amount of troubleshooting, especially when he's advised that a score has been entered incorrectly. In some cases the mistake and remedy are obvious. When they're not, then representatives of both sides become involved. If Rahul has directed the game himself, he handles the situation on his own; if another Director is involved, he facilitates.

Rahul also produces a monthly Directors' schedule, assists Directors as required with the computerized end of the business, oversees the database, maintains financial records, and orders supplies. In these and other capacities he works closely with the Board (of which he is an *ex officio* member), especially the President and Treasurer; the Webmaster; and the landlord as required. He also communicates regularly with ACBL.

One of the trickier aspects of his job is drawing up the seating arrangement. Rahul does it randomly at first, utilizing the website *random.org*. The results are very impersonal and he's comfortable with the process, plus Directors have the right to change the arrangement if they so desire. Problems arise when someone has a special request requiring a 'hand' adjustment of the seating arrangement. It can sometimes be difficult finding the proper balance between wanting the game to be fair, in the sense of having the right balance between A, B and C players, north/south and east/west alignment, and experienced *vs* inexperienced players on the one hand, and wanting everyone to feel comfortable and able to play on the other. It's the latter side that Directors usually come down on, doing the best they can to ensure equity.

The most satisfying aspect is seeing a game run smoothly. This is facilitated by the variety of web movements now available, not all of which find favour with BOTE players (eg. the Arrow Switch), and is largely a matter of trial and error on his part.

Although Rahul doesn't play *Magic* much anymore, he continues to play all sorts of computer and board games, both at the Tabletop Games Club at MUN and with friends. With literally hundreds of board games to choose from, his current favorite is *Titan*. He tends to read science fiction, especially the classics by writers such as Isaac Asimov and Robert A. Heinlein.

Rahul's even-tempered approach and calming presence is appreciated by everyone at BOTE. He is organized, a good listener (if you have a problem and he can't fix it, you at least feel you've been heard) and respectful of others, and respectful of other points of view. All of which has earned our Club Manager the enormous respect and trust of membership, fellow Directors, and executive alike.



Bridge is the most entertaining and intelligent card game the wit of man has so far devised.
- W. Somerset Maugham



The View from the Other Side of the Room

Recognizing that the wellbeing of any club, bridge or otherwise, depends on the recruitment and retention of new members, over the course of recent weeks input was solicited from various players in the 99ers category in an effort to determine if BOTE is meeting their needs and expectations.

On the whole, the 99ers are an enthusiastic lot with a genuine interest in enjoying the game and improving their skills. The more competitive among them will play in both areas. Others are not interested in doing so, some because they prefer the slower-paced game and lower stress level, others because they are intimidated by what goes on in Section A and do not feel welcome. Even among those who do play 'up', there was some dissatisfaction with the experience and a sense it could be improved. The players that ventured to Section A said it provided them with a good opportunity to learn from the more experienced players.

A commonly expressed view among the 99ers was that, as a group, they did not feel valued or respected. A few even questioned whether Section A players wanted the 99ers as a part of the club or not. Others felt that double standards, with respect to noise levels, for example, were constantly in play. Some simply felt unwelcome.

One of the simplest steps the club could take would be to reduce the levels of noise and disruption at the 99ers' end of the room. There were several suggestions, such as moving the 99ers to the far end of the room, away from the washrooms, or making better use of the dividers. Some proposed that there be one or two morning sessions a week which focused on the 99ers and had mentors available. Several wanted the 99ers to be more independent of the 100+ group with their own clock and director.

Everyone should ask themselves the question: What can the club do to improve the experience of the newer players? By paying attention to their needs and concerns we can ensure that BOTE remains healthy in the future.





Give respect Get respect

Rulings: Newer players fear a director call. It feels like a form of punishment. This can only be overcome by experienced players pausing to ask themselves if the call is necessary and by directors being kind and patient. The ACBL (American Contract Bridge League) says a good director must have the public relations skills to balance the roles of referee, judge, teacher, psychologist and entertainment director.

Education: The 99ers would like help and instruction in the following areas:

- Using the website
- The Common Game features
- Slam bidding appropriate for their level

Silence: Why is it that players in Section A want silence when they play but when they break, they head to the washrooms and kitchen area talking and laughing without considering that they are walking past and through Section B's ongoing game.

Patience: If players in the 100+ section were a little more tolerant and welcoming, it would ease the transition from one section to the other.

Ease: The current location has easy access. Good parking. The only problem mentioned was the lack of ventilation in the women's washroom.

Courtesy: Kindness to others is always appreciated. Some players are so competitive that it robs others, especially newer players, of their enjoyment of the game.

Teaching: The 99ers would welcome a more experienced player at each table to advise and instruct. Likewise they would appreciate more experienced players inviting them for a game.

The Briars

M Wadden and M Walbourne



The last weekend in October has been a bridge weekend at the Briars Resort in Lake Simcoe with Barbara Seagram for 25 years. Next year John Raynam and his wife will take over and hopefully Barbara and her husband Alex Kornel will join the group as bridge players.

It is a great learning experience for bridge players from all over North America. You see familiar faces everywhere. It has been the second year for the three of us and what a reception we Newfoundlanders had! We received a prize just for coming!

We took the early morning flight to Toronto and upon arrival used a transport service to take us to the Resort. Easy trip!

You are welcomed with a great lunch and bridge begins with a lesson followed by an afternoon of bridge. The weekend continued with excellent meals, great accommodations and informative lessons.

When we finished play on Saturday evening there was a social. This gave us time to get reacquainted with old friends and to make some new ones. As usual, there was lots of bridge conversation.

This is a wonderful weekend for bridge players who want to improve their game or just play in a relaxing, beautiful setting.

We all came home with new friends, great memories and a few master points!



Marilyn Walbourne, Madonna Wadden, Barbara Seagram, Margie Murray Reed

Hand Evaluation & Revaluing

by Barbara Seagram

Many students have great difficulty with the concept of hand evaluation. I believe that it is right to count distribution even as an opening bidder. Some count short suits (3 for a void, 2 for a singleton and 1 for a doubleton), some count long suits (1 point for 5th card in long suit and 1 extra point for 6th etc.) Both methods are correct. Just choose one or the other, not both.



If your partner wishes to use one method and you use another; that does not matter either. I believe that bridge teachers tell us to not count distribution until we have found a fit because they worry that students are incapable of revaluing when partner bids a suit in which you have shortness (shortness is a singleton, doubleton or a void).

Students who are taught to only count long suit distribution are then taught the Rule of 20. This is a different way of counting distribution, that's all.

If you have Axxx Axxx Axxx x the short suit counters have 14 points so will open with 1 D. Long suit counters may worry that they do not have the required 13 points to open the bidding. Thus, along came the RULE of 20. If you find yourself close to an opening bid but feel you don't have enough points to open, use the Rule of 20. Count your HCP and then add the length of the two longest suits. If this totals 20, then you have permission to open the bidding. (This is the same as counting distribution but this is how some get around this issue!)

NOTE: You should not use the Rule of 20 to give you permission to open the bidding when you have a hand such as this:

Qx KJx KQxx Jxxx This assortment of junk will tally 20 with Rule of 20 but doubleton Queens or Jacks are a sorry sight and do not deserve much respect. We call Queens and Jacks "Quacks!" This should not be an opening bid.

Here's what you REALLY have to remember: The value of your hand is in a constant state of flux. Once partner starts bidding, your hand is like a flower: it either blossoms or grows or it wilts and dies.

e.g. If you have a short suit in your hand and partner now names that suit, you are depressed. Your hand has wilted. It is NEVER good to have a shortage in partner's suit. We are constantly searching for FITS, not MISFITS. If partner bids spades and you have a small spade singleton in your hand, subtract two points from your hand, even if you are a long suit counter and did not add any to this to start with. Your hand has gone downhill. It is devalued.

♠ 3
♥ AJ65432
♦ AK4
♣ 76

Counting points on this hand totals 15, regardless of which method you are using (long suit or short suit method). This time both methods tally to the same number but it will often differ a bit by a few points here or there. Never enough to worry about at all.

If we open with 1H and partner bids 1S, this hand has now dropped in value and we only have 13. We should now bid 2H as our rebid as this is now a minimum hand.

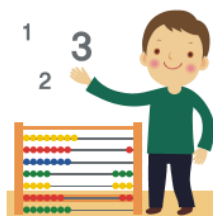
When partner bids a suit in which you have a void, subtract 3 points as your hand is now flawed.
When partner bids a suit in which you have a singleton, subtract 2 points.
When partner bids a suit in which you have a doubleton, subtract 1 point.

BUT

If instead (see hand above again) partner has bid 2H after our 1H opener, then our hand now grows up. We must add 1 extra point for the 5th card in the suit which has been supported and TWO extra points for each remaining card. Long suit counters must do that also even though they already counted three length points to start with. (Yes, they are double dipping.) YOUR hand has INCREASED in value, now that you know you are going to be declarer. If you do not do this, then you remain with the same old 15 points and will have to pass partner's 2H bid that showed 6-9 points. How can this be right?

This was the invention of Charles Goren, many years ago and will never fail you in getting you to games and slams. I truly believe it is the best hand re-valuing method.
In the above example, we now have 20 points (after adding the extra 5 points) and after partner has raised us to 2H (showing 6-9 points) we should now bid 4H.

NOTE: Short suit counters should never count extra for distribution for value for doubleton Qx and Jx or singleton K or singleton Q or singleton J. Those holdings just get the high card points (except with singleton J where they get 2 points or it would be worth less than a singleton 3 which would seem wrong).



If the opponents have bid a suit in which you have a singleton K or Q, count nothing for these cards, they are most unlikely to win any tricks.

DUMMY POINTS: When you are going to become dummy, if you have **THREE** card support for partner, then short suit points are worth 3-2-1 (3 for a void, 2 for a singleton and 1 for a doubleton).

When you are going to become dummy, if you have **FOUR** (or more) card support for partner, then short suit points are worth 5-3-1 (5 for a void, 3 for a singleton and 1 for a doubleton).

If you are a long suit counter, then when you are going to become dummy (because you have three card or better support for partner's suit), then long suit points go away and short suit points come in.

Too much time and energy is spent fussing over which method is best for hand evaluation, unfortunately. This is the only time that we do not have to be on the same wave length as partner. Let partner do it one way and you do it another and all will go well. BUT ALWAYS REMEMBER to **revalue your hand**.

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Used with permission of Barbara Seagram

ACBL Fall National in Honolulu, Hawaii

Janet Parsons

What can I say ...sea, sun, sand, and palm trees!!! It was beautiful. One heck of a long trip to get there!! It took almost 24 hours travel time. The playing site consisted of a beautiful village of hotels situated on 22 acres of ocean front property:



This is the Rainbow Tower. I was in the Tapa Tower.



This is my room and it overlooked the pool below.



The Tapa Bar - there were live performers in the evenings.



The Tapa Pool



This huge ballroom was subdivided into multiple rooms for playing and lectures

Okay the accommodations were adequate!! Now for the bridge side of things... a NATIONAL is a big scary thing UNTIL you actually see one up close and personal and understand that it really consists of 3 events running simultaneously. When I first heard of a National event I was intimidated and didn't realize what an opportunity it presented for the newer player. I would recommend that you attend a National if you have the opportunity.

The I/N (**Intermediate /Newcomer**) section is the big plus for newer players. Because it is a larger event there is an entire section devoted to those with fewer than 300 master points. The opportunities include:

- Play at your level – players with 0-299 master points can play every day
- Learn from the pros – celebrity speakers are there for daily lectures. I attended most of the morning lectures and they were great.
- Make new friends – partners are guaranteed if you register at the I/N partnership desk 1 hour before any game time
- Expand your knowledge – in depth half-day seminars and free two-hour lessons

The **Regional** level is really no different than any Regional. There are Gold rush games, open pairs events and team games.

The **National** level event is often held in a different building (this was the case in Hawaii) or at least far removed from other events. The top players compete for Platinum points. The events are recorded live and are often televised. I spoke with Allan Graves, a top Canadian player from Nova Scotia, about what it was like to play at this level. He said it takes more time because you sit behind a screen next to one of your opponents and the bids are placed in a tray, which is then passed to the other side through a flap. The screen cuts down on any signals that might be sent i.e. cheating.

Oh, another feature is the hospitality...every night there was great food after the last session. Also on several nights we were treated to performances. Hula anyone??

My Opponent has made the Opening Lead out of Turn

Author: Larry Cohen

My opponent has made the opening lead out of turn--Now what?

First of all, so it won't happen to you, remember to always make your opening lead face down. Give everyone at the table a chance to tell you if it isn't your lead. You can take back the face-down lead without any penalty.

But, if an opening lead is made face up (out of turn), the first thing to do is for the declarer to (politely) call for the director. Don't make your own table ruling.

There should be no acrimony, no hard feelings and no embarrassment. This is just part of the game (like any other error) and the proper procedure should be followed.

The director will explain to the declarer that he has 5 (yes, 5!) options. I am often asked which one declarer should choose. There is no cut and dried answer. It depends. Here are the 5 options, with my comments on why you might want to choose (or not choose) each one.

Option 1) Accept the lead and just continue to play out the hand. Since the lead came from declarer's RHO (instead of the normal LHO), the declarer will be playing second to the trick. The dummy gets placed down before declarer plays and play continues normally with no further penalty.

Pros for accepting this option:

- > You like the card/suit led
- > "Goldwater's" rule says that if your opponent isn't smart enough to know whose lead it is, he probably isn't smart enough to have made a good opening lead.

Cons for accepting this option:

- > You don't like the card/suit led
- > You don't really gain anything (as opposed to some of the later options).

Option 2) Identical to Option 1 except that after the lead is accepted, you put your hand face up on the table as the dummy. Your partner (who was supposed to be dummy) becomes the declarer. You become the dummy and play continues without further penalty.

Pros for accepting this option:

- > You like the card/suit led
- > Goldwater's rule
- > You think your partner is a better declarer than you.

Cons for accepting this option:

- > You don't like the card/suit led
- > You think your partner is a worse declarer than you (or maybe he is having a rough day).

Option 3) Make your RHO put the card back into his hand and forbid his partner from leading any card in that suit. Your LHO makes the opening lead (in some other suit) and the dummy comes down. Play continues normally, but LHO can't switch to the lead-out-of-turn suit if he holds the lead after the first trick(s). (For example, if LHO lays down a side ace, he can't then switch to the suit his partner led out of turn). LHO is not allowed to ever take advantage of the knowledge he gained from the lead out of turn.

Pro for accepting this option: You are terrified of the suit led.

Con for accepting this option: There isn't much penalty after trick one.

Option 4) Same as Option 3 except that after RHO picks up his card, you require LHO to lead that suit. LHO can lead any card in the suit and RHO can play any card in the suit. There is no further penalty (other than again, LHO is not supposed to take advantage of the knowledge gained from the erroneous lead).

Pro for accepting this option: You welcome the suit erroneously led (and want the lead coming into your hand -- maybe with a tenace such as AQ).

Con for accepting this option: There isn't any penalty after trick one.

Option 5) You let LHO lead anything he wants and leave RHO's erroneous lead face up as a [major penalty card](#).

Pro for accepting this option: You could have a big advantage later in the play because of the penalty card.

Con for accepting this option: You are allowing LHO lead any suit he wants.

Source:

<https://www.larryco.com/bridge-articles/my-opponent-has-made-the-opening-lead-out-of-turn>



Director's Rulings — Insufficient Bids and Revokes

By John Goold

The latest version of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge have increased the proportion of laws where the Director has to exercise judgement, as in “*were the non-offenders damaged?*”. In this article I will discuss what the Laws say, rather than how an individual Director might rule. **Note:** If a particular law does not use phrases such as “*in the Director’s opinion*” or “*if the Director judges*”, then the Director is supposed to rule exactly as the law states without using their own judgement.

Although there has been a massive shift in emphasis during the last couple of revisions to the Laws to “*restoring equity*” (i.e. fairness, what would have happened had the infraction not occurred), I am going to use the old-fashioned term “*penalty*”. Just think “*an adjustment in order to restore equity*” whenever I use the term “*penalty*”.

Revokes — Laws 61 to 64

Definition of a Revoke: We tend to think of a revoke as failing to follow suit to a trick when having a card of the suit led, but this definition is incomplete. One also revokes if one is required to play a card (such as a penalty card) because of an earlier infraction by one’s side but plays another card, even if of the same suit. I will only be discussing “*failing to follow suit to a trick when having a card of the suit led*”.

There is a misconception that “*Dummy cannot revoke*” — Dummy can revoke, but there is generally no penalty for a revoke by Dummy (the exception comes under the “*were the non-offenders damaged?*” judgement of the Director). On the other hand, Declarer can revoke and it occurs just as often as a defender revoking.

Established Revoke: There is no penalty for a revoke unless it is established. However, if it is noticed before it is established, it must be corrected by playing a legal card. If the person who was revoking is a defender, the card originally played becomes a “*major penalty card*”.

So, when does a revoke become established? It becomes “*established*” when the offender or their partner play to the next trick whether by playing or naming a card (there is a wrinkle involving claims and concessions that I will not discuss).

Penalty: The ruling involving a revoke is different if the revoke occurs at trick twelve. In this case, the revoke must be corrected (which obviously may affect who wins trick thirteen). If it is by a defender before their partner plays to the trick, there may be “*Unauthorized Information*” which affects their partner’s play in which case the appropriate Law kicks in, but otherwise there is no penalty.

Otherwise the penalty for an established revoke is straightforward:

Tricks prior to the revoke trick are never transferred; that is, only tricks won by the offending side after and including the revoke trick can be transferred.

Note: There is a difference between “*the offender*” and “*the offending side*”. The former refers only to the player who revoked, whereas the latter refers to the offender and their partner.

- 0 Tricks transferred if neither the revoke trick nor any subsequent trick was won by the offending side.
- 1 Trick transferred if the revoke trick was not won by the offender but it or a subsequent trick was won by the offending side.
- 2 Tricks transferred if the revoke trick was won by the offender and a subsequent trick was won by the offending side. **Note:** This can only occur if the revoker trumped the trick.
- More than 2 tricks are transferred to restore “equity” if the Director deems the non-offenders were damaged by more than the 1 or 2 trick normal penalty. Two examples should make this clear: (1) By revoking the offender prevented Declarer from running a long suit; (2) By revoking the offender was able to make Declarer lose control of the hand (for example, by losing trump control or by being locked in dummy or their hand and being unable to cash winning tricks in the other hand).

Notes:

- Any player, except Dummy, can draw attention to a revoke (it is an infraction) during the play, at which point the Director should be called. **Do not start looking back through the quitted tricks** to confirm or disprove the revoke — it is against the Laws.
- If a player makes a subsequent revoke in the same suit, there is no additional penalty.
- However, it is strictly against the Laws to attempt to conceal an infraction (such as a revoke) by making a subsequent infraction (such as by purposefully revoking a second time or by claiming or conceding before all the tricks have been played to).
- A player is under no obligation to point out an infraction by their side (my personal sense of ethics requires me to point out a revoke if I notice it). There is an exception if there has been a misexplanation of a call.



Insufficient Bids — Law 27

This is a Law that has become more difficult to rule on in the last couple of editions of the Laws. It now requires considerably more judgement and bridge knowledge on the part of the Director.

Insufficient bids out of turn are dealt with under a different Law. I will not discuss that complication nor discuss what happens when a player makes an illegal “*call*” (a “*call*” includes Pass, Double and Redouble as well as bids).

I assume everyone knows what an “*insufficient bid*” is.

When you make an insufficient bid and attention is drawn to it, **do not attempt to correct it!** At this point, someone should call the Director. Failing to do so, may cause you to lose some of the rights you otherwise might have. If you do correct the insufficient bid prematurely, this does not preclude your left-hand opponent accepting the original insufficient bid.

At this point, there is something very important you need to be aware of that is not part of the Law on insufficient bids. It is covered in “**Law 25, Legal and Illegal Changes of Call**”. If the insufficient bid was caused by a mechanical error (e.g. one reaches for the 5 Heart bid, one’s fingers slip and what is pulled out is the 4 Heart or 4 Spade bid), then it can be corrected without penalty. However, you need to inform the Director of your intended bid and that what came out of the bidding box was not what you were attempting to pull out. **Note:** If you made the bid because you did not notice the last bid or failed to digest it (lack of attention), Law 27 applies exactly as written. This is an application of the Director’s judgement — did the person really make a mechanical error or were they just not paying attention. [Personal opinion: I believe that, more often than not, it is the latter rather than the former, except in the case of physical issues where I would always give the benefit of the doubt to the person who pulled the insufficient bid.]

So, what happens now?

The next person to call, the offender’s left-hand opponent, may accept the insufficient bid by making a legal call (as noted, this is true even if the offender attempted to correct their insufficient bid). If that happens, there are no further rectifications — the auction continues as if the insufficient bid were legal. It is as if the level of the auction has simply been reset.

If the insufficient bid is not accepted, then we get into the complications introduced over the last couple of revisions to the Laws. Those complications involve what is meant by the phrase “*comparable call*”.

First, the offender can substitute a sufficient bid in the same denomination (i.e., the same suit or NT) and there is no further penalty unless the non-offenders can make a reasonable case that they have been damaged.

There is one more case where there is no further penalty: the offender substitutes a “*comparable call*”. That means (forgive me for quoting the Laws here, but it is important):

1. has the same or similar meaning as that attributable to the withdrawn call, or
2. defines a subset of the possible meanings attributed to the withdrawn call, or
3. has the same purpose (e.g. an asking bid or a relay) as that attributable to the withdrawn call.

Suppose the opening bidder bids 1 Club, artificial and forcing; their opponent overcalls 1 Spade; and their partner, not paying attention, bids 1 Diamond. “**Director!**”. For this example, I am going to assume that if the auction had gone 1 Club – Pass - 1 Diamond, that one diamond would be artificial showing 0-7 HCP. Further suppose in the auction 1 Club - 1 Spade - Pass, that pass would be artificial showing 0 – 7 HCP and less than 4 hearts; and 1 Club - 1 Spade - Dbl, that double would be artificial showing 0-7 HCP and 4 or more Hearts.

Then the insufficient 1 Diamond bid may be corrected to Pass or Double (under (2) above) with no further penalty.

What happens when the offender doesn’t do one of these two things (substitutes a sufficient bid in the same denomination or substitutes a comparable call), but substitutes some other legal call (Double or Redouble is not permitted unless it is a comparable call)? Well then, the offender’s partner must Pass for the remainder of the auction and there may be lead penalties.



BOTE Winter Education Schedule 2019

Event	Facilitator	Date(s)
Supervised Play	Gloria Stone	Mondays 7-9 pm, January 7, 14, 21
Complimentary game with assistance: Fall Beginners class participants only		Tuesday, 9:30-11:30, January 8
Convention Card	Anne Hughes	Tuesday, 9:30-11:30, January 15 and 22 "Cancelled"
Play of the Hand, Part 1: Trump Suit	Richard Lash	Mondays , 7-9 pm, January 28, February 4 and 11
Supervised Play	Janet Hannaford	Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30, February 5, 12, 19, 26
Midterm Exam	Roy Perry	Mondays, 9:30-11:30, February 18 and 25
Play of the Hand, Part 1 continued: Trump Suit	Richard Lash	Mondays, 7-9 pm, March 11, 18
Jacoby 2NT & Bergen Raises	Gloria Stone	Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30, March 26, April 2, 9, 16
Play of the Hand, Part 2: No Trump	Richard Lash	Mondays, 7-9 pm, April 8, 15, 22 and 29
Call for Spring Proposals		March 7/19 with response by March 28/19



Read a good bridge book lately? Tell the whole BOTE world about it! Please include title, author, level and a brief description of the contents.

Articles and suggestions for the next edition of the Newsletter are welcomed. Please send to patriciaobrien@nl.rogers.com