

## **BABC Online**

### **WHAT YOU MUST KNOW BEFORE PLAYING IN A TOURNAMENT**

This note gives advice on: calling the Director; Alerting bids; Explaining bids and asking for explanations.

#### **Calling the Director**

Some of the problems for which the Director is called in a live bridge session do not occur when you play online. You cannot bid or play out of turn, you cannot make an insufficient bid, and you cannot revoke.

You might need to call the Director to seek a ruling about what has happened or should happen. If you are playing on the desktop web version, then click on the blue box with three white lines, usually top left, and then click on *Call Director*.

In the mobile version, click on the Table button and then click on *Call Director*.

The Director will then engage with you via the messaging facility

#### **Self-Alerting**

Our online games use "self-alerting" – you alert your own calls, not your partner's.

You should alert any call that would be alerted or announced in an EBU offline game – so that includes NT opening ranges, transfers, Stayman and opening two-bids, as well as more obviously conventional calls. When you join a session one of the pair will normally type in the messaging field a brief summary of the conventions they use e.g. "WNT, 3 weak twos, Stayman, transfers". Just as we would say to a pair when we sit at their table at the Barn Hall.

You must do this even if you have a system card uploaded, as you should.

When you make a bid you type the explanation of your call in the "bidding box", BEFORE you enter the bid. When you complete the bid the message will automatically be sent to your opponents.

Your partner does not see the alert, so you can never do any harm by alerting too much.

You should of course also answer any questions from your opponents about your agreements or your carding methods.

## **Asking questions during bidding**

If the opposition have made a bid without an explanation you can click on the bid and highlight the *Explain* button. They will then be asked to give more information about the bid. If the explanation they give is unhelpful. e.g. just giving the name of a convention which you have never heard of, you can click on the Explain box again to ask for further elaboration.

The request for an explanation will only go to the player who made the bid; their response will only go to their opponents and not to their partner.

Note: You shouldn't send a message to the table asking for an explanation. Messages sent to the table will be seen by bidder's partner. It is best to use the *Explain* button