It is that time of year again, time to celebrate the season and be thankful!



Columbia Bridge Club | 77 Brighton Hill Road www.bridgewebs.com/columbiabridgeclub | Columbia, SC 29223 US

A thank you to ALL our attendees who play at CBC...Without you we don't exist! Here are our top 12 attendees since June 1, 2026....**KEEP COMING BACK ALL OF YOU!**

Brent Holcom
Randy Cannon
Ellen Brown
Mary Townhill
Carolyn Cromer
Jack Self
Barry Palm
Judy Rockwell
Olivia Smith1
Loretta McPherson
Laura Bro
Alice Moore

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HOLIDAY/ Winter PARTY

You are all invited to our upcoming Holiday/Winter Party on Saturday, December 5th at 11:00. Please come. See details attached..Be sure to sign up for you and your partner.



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

(*Author's Note*: This is a reprint of an article I wrote several years ago. The behaviors mentioned here are just as relevant today as they were back then.)

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 player 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 play 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.



MORE OPEN GAMES! Check this out. CBC will sponsor two open games per month on a Sunday at 1:30....One individual and one Hi Lo. Something for everyone... Don't miss our Royal Stac week....enough bridge for everyone..



Susan and Laura's game on Monday is now up to 1000 MP'S!..







Advanced NABC Master
Toni Elkins, Velma Pruitt

Club Master John Hutto

Junior Master Melissa Neely

WE HAVE ALL BEEN THERE

We all know it can be intimidating to play with those who have played for years and amounted lots of master points...CBC is offering the below so you can experience play wlth those who started where you started...

Free Plays!

The holiday spirit has arrived early at the CBC.

All CBC members with fewer than 300 masterpoints (as of the October MyACBL Entry) who come out and play in an Open Pairs or Open Team game will play for free from now until the end of the year!

So put away your pocket books, grab out your convention cards, silence your cell phones, and come play some bridge :).

Not a member of the CBC?
Join today and take advantage of this excellent opportunity.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Scott

Club Etiquette

Since COVID, we all know that game attendance has declined. To prevent people driving to a game for it to be cancelled, the CBC implemented the registration system we are still using. We never turn away people who show-up without registering, but we use the registration information to determine if the game should run or not.

The process is that the game director checks registrations the night before at 8 pm. If enough pairs are not registered, the game is canceled and the registered players are notified. This allows people to make other arrangements to play, do other things, etc.

Please be aware that canceling the day of a game can cause major problems. If a game does not have three tables, we cannot run it. If players are signed up and then decide not to play because it is a small game, this can cause the game to be canceled for everyone. Not only is this inconsiderate of your partner, but also the other players. Imagine driving 30-60 minutes to play and have the game canceled because players decided last-minute not to play.

We understand not always wanting to play in small games, but please make the determination if you're going to play or not the day before the game. You can see the registration and make an informed decision while also allowing time for other players to be notified should the game not make.

CBC Updates

Hello CBC Members!

There have been several changes that the CBC Board have approved for the club.

The Holiday Party on Saturday, December 5th. Free food (thank you to our sponsors!) and free bridge. Just sign up on the website, and feel free to bring a dish to share.

New games! Monday morning is now a 0-1000 game with Susan and Laura. Starting in January, there will be a new-comer limit game Saturday mornings.

New classes and workshops starting in January! Beginner classes, Thomas McCormac, and more coming up.

Local Sectional January 15-17, 2027. This will be the third year we've run this, and it has always been a lot of fun for everyone involved.

Finally, one other big change effective January 1st, 2027. After 15-20 years of not raising the entry cost, the times finally caught up with the CBC and we need to raise the entry fee to $8 to help cover our costs. We know that this is not what anyone wants to hear, but we appreciate your understanding.



Dear Friends and Bridge Family,

As we are in the season of giving, I want to wish you all a Happy Holiday Season!

I am again asking everyone to consider donating to PALSS. This year marks our 11th (!!!) year of supporting this cause! I am estimating that to date, we have donated around $25,000!!! Let's keep up the good work!

Just as a reminder, PALSS serves all of South Carolina and provides services and support to individuals, families, children, and caregivers affected by HIV, AIDS, and anything/everything else. With December not only being the time for giving but also HIV/AIDS Awareness and Prevention Month, it is the perfect time to donate to this wonderful cause.

Services that PALSS provides includes:

- Affordable medical treatment for individuals (free up to $15)
- HIV and STI testing, treatment, prevention, and education
- Transportation for individuals in need
- Rent and Housing assistance
- Support groups for individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS
- A men's clinic
- A women's clinic
- A Food Pantry for individuals in need
- Community outreach - homeless shelters, colleges and universities, community events, etc.
- Mental Health and Counseling Services for the Community
- And so much more! See **www.palss.org** for more info.

They have expanded their services with the new Palmetto Family Service Center (PFSC) Mobile unit. They are reaching out to underserved communities for basic medical care now as well as all of the other services they provide.

Unit 160 has pledged a matching donation of up to $1000 this year. I know that we can easily double that and hopefully so much more.

As for the details, you can donate however you want. I am collecting the donations through DECEMBER 31st. You can drop your donation off to the Columbia Bridge Club and give it to the director, mail a check to me, or send a donation electronically. Please let me know if you need a receipt for tax purposes, and I will get that to you by the end of January. Checks can be made out to me or to PALSS directly - whatever works best for you. I will give them the donation at the start of January and all tax receipts will be dated for December 2025.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me either via email, text, or phone.

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