

HORSHAM BRIDGE CLUB PSYCHIC BIDDING



1. DEFINITIONS

“Psyche” – a deliberate and gross misstatement of honour strength and/or suit length

“Deviation” – a deliberate but minor misstatement of honour strength and/or suit length

2. EXAMPLES

- Psyches - Opening or overcalling 1H with 2 or 3 hearts; raising partner’s 1S opening to 3S with 0 points
- Deviations – Opening 1NT with 11 points (playing 12-14); overcalling with a 4 card suit (if convention card shows minimum 5)

3. LAWS

Psyches and deviations are not illegal. However, if partner bids abnormally he may be “fielding” the psyche or deviation, which is not permitted.

Strong 2 bids which do not meet the required criteria are illegal.

4. SANCTIONS

If the director is called, he must assess whether the psyche or deviation is red, amber or green. Red means that the bid is illegal (as in 3 above) or he considers that the psycher’s partner has taken account of the psyche (even if unwittingly). He can impose an adjusted score on the hand. Amber means that the director believes that partner may have been influenced but considers an adjusted score inappropriate (NB 2 ambers in the same session convert into 2 reds). Green means that the director is satisfied that partner was oblivious to the psyche.

5. HBC’s APPROACH

- All regular partnerships should complete a convention card. Occasional partners should, at least, enter their agreed system on the score cards provided. The convention card/completed score card should be available to opponents.
- The Club has a psyche book and any reported psyches and deviations may be entered in it by the director.
- Any player at a table can call the director if it is believed that a psyche or a deviation has taken place.
- If, after a session, a player becomes aware that a psyche or deviation has taken place it may be reported to the director up to 7 days after the event (this allows for a review of hands on the website).
- A strong 2 bid which does not meet the required criteria should be reported to the director. If the director considers that the bidder is an experienced player it will be treated as an illegal bid.
- The director will have the power to adjust scores as indicated in 4 above.
- The director may refer players to the Conduct Committee if he considers that a psyche or deviation has been fielded or an illegal bid has been made.