

# Highcliffe Duplicate Bridge Club



Monday and Wednesday evenings, 6.00 for 6.15 pm start.

Please be seated at tables 10 minutes prior to start to assist Director to assess the movement.

Random Teams 1st Monday each month.

Social bridge each Friday 1.20 for 1.30pm start.

Host in attendance each evening except teams evenings and bank holidays.

The aim of this leaflet is to explain some of the **Do's and Don'ts** regarding responsibilities and etiquette.

### **Etiquette at the table**

- a) Each partnership should have a convention card for the opponents to look at if they wish and for the director if called.
- b) Count your cards before looking at them.
- c) When a board is to be played it is placed in the centre of the table and remains there until play is completed.
- d) Be aware of when to alert or announce a bid.
- e) Be aware of the correct use of the 'stop' card.
- f) Do not 'hover' over the bidding box or touch the box until you have decided what bid you will make.
- g) When bidding is complete, leave the bidding cards on the table until the lead card has been played.
- h) Please play the lead card before entering the contract on a score card or tablet.
- i) When leading, place the card face down on the table before asking whether partner has any questions.
- j) Dummy should keep hands in lap until a card is requested by declarer. Dummy should not speak or indicate cards.
- k) Slow play keeps others waiting to join a table and reduces their time to play the next boards. If the auction on a board has not started when it is time to move, the Director may deny you the right to play, and if you are continually guilty of slow play the director may award an adjusted score of below average to the guilty parties.

## Club Etiquette

- a) Please be quiet when notices are being given out so that everyone can hear.
- b) Please greet each of your new opponents politely and thank them afterwards.
- c) North is in charge of the table. They may use the tablet or delegate to South. They are also responsible for moving the boards for the next round and for returning the tablet to the scorer at the end of the evening.
- d) East is responsible for checking that the result has been entered correctly. The contract, declarer and score should all be checked.
- e) Please do not discuss hands until all the boards from the round have been played. If there is time, you may discuss QUIETLY.
- f) Loud discussion of bidding, play or results, which may be overheard, gives an unfair advantage to those about to play the board, and you can be penalised for this.
- g) Always call the Director if there is an infringement of the rules or a debatable point. ( The most likely reasons are : revoke, bid out of turn, insufficient bid, long pauses before passing and lead out of turn.) There is no stigma to this and you should never attempt to 'sort things out' amongst yourselves.
- h) Only 1 person should explain the query. The others should listen quietly and then follow the Director's instructions.
- i) Players at the table should ensure that at the end of play the table is cleared and put away and the chairs are stacked.

## More explanations

### Alerting

When you remove the alert card from the box, place it in a prominent position on the table, ensuring that both opponents are aware of it.

**You must not explain your reason for alerting unless asked to do so by the opposition.** By doing so you are giving your partner unauthorised information - his bid may have had a different meaning than your interpretation. In either situation he may not make allowances for the fact that you have misread his bid; his future actions should be based entirely on his own hand and not your interpretation of it. The opponents could well be damaged by it and be entitled to redress.

**Review and explanation of Calls and Bids** (Laws 16 & 20) if an incorrect explanation has been given during the auction, do not attempt to correct it until the auction has ended and then only if you are Declarer/Dummy. You must then inform defenders of any misinformation before the opening lead is made. Defending side must not attempt to correct any wrong explanation given by their partner – this would alert the partner to his misinterpretation of your bid.

### Bidding

- a) All members should have a completed Convention card with them at the table, listing conventions and other agreements. During the auction any player may refer to his opponents' card when it is his turn to call, but may not refer to his own (you are not allowed any aids to your memory!). During play any player except Dummy may refer to the opponents' cards.
- b) Players may not make calls based on special partnership understanding (i.e. I never call NT because my partner likes to play that)
- c) Body language to alert your partner to a specific situation is not permissible i.e. eye pointing, hand hovering, playing a card in an obvious way etc.
- d) All conventions and artificial bids must be alerted. Also:

An opening bid of a suit with less than four cards;

Competitive, Negative or Responsive doubles;

A call which is natural but which has a partnership agreement with regard to whether it is forcing or not.

A Pass which shows unexpected values.

If partner has not bid (he may have passed), alert his double of a suit at the 3 level or less if it is not for takeout.