

ARANA CONTRACT BRIDGE CLUB

APRIL, 1988
VOL. 2 ISSUE 3



EDITORIAL

The Annual General Meeting, marking our second year of operation will be held on April, 27th (Wednesday night) at 7 p.m. Normal club play will commence at the conclusion of this meeting.

In accordance with our Constitution, the agenda for this meeting will be distributed to members two (2) weeks prior to this meeting date. The Committee has decided to include with the agenda, Minutes of the last AGM, The Presidents Report and the Audited Treasurer's Report. It is not intended to read these at the meeting, however, members are free to raise any points from these reports after they are tabled. We therefore urge members to familiarise themselves with these reports prior to the AGM.

Nominations for Office Bearers and Committee Members close two (2) weeks prior to the AGM. Nomination forms are now available on the notice board or from Adrienne. Members are reminded that, in accordance with our constitution no nominations will be accepted at the meeting unless a particular position has not be filled. Please ensure that all nomination forms are returned to Adrienne prior to the 11th for inclusion in the agenda.

Some weeks ago we distributed to all regular members an information sheet. The purpose behind this was to ensure that our Member Register was completely correct and up to date before the AGM. There are still a few members who have not returned this sheet. Could all members please check the Member Register box which is available each club day/night to make sure that their name is recorded.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Annual General Meeting on the 27th April.

J Valentine

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Last, year I printed through the Trump-It, the Laws of Duplicate Bridge 1975 Edition. Recently the Laws have been up-dated and some areas have changed. This article was kindly supplied to me by Reg Busch, who was requested by the Queensland Bridge Association to submit a report to affiliated Club on these changes.

1987 Laws of Bridge

This article is intended to cover the important changes in the 1987 laws. The new law book is a considerable improvement on the old one, being better laid out and there is not the need to pursue a particular situation into several different areas of the book. In most situations, one reference is enough.

The changes in general achieve improvements in three areas: a few scoring changes affecting tactics; some changes to reduce unauthorised information; and some changes to reduce the current ferocious penalties in certain situations so that, as Kaplan says, you are not hanged by the neck until dead for certain infractions.

General

SCORING

1. Doubled undertricks, Non. Vul., cost 300 per trick after the third. So the scores will go 100, 300, 500, 800, 1100 etc. This will make the Non. Vul. sacrifice against the Vul. game and slam less attractive.

2. For making a redoubled contract, the score for the "insult" will be 100 instead of 50. This removes the anomaly whereby, in some situations, five doubled with an overtrick scores less than six bid and made.

PROPRIETIES now become an integral part of the laws, and not just (to quote Kaplan again) "pious advice".

WBF ZONES will have the right to restrict the systemic use of one level opening bids with a king or more below average strength i.e. with less than eight points. This power can be delegated. Forcing pass systems and other light opening systems will fall into this category.

SYSTEM CARDS

Players will no longer be able to consult their own system card during bidding or play. In fact, no aids to memory of any kind will be allowed. This will not apply, of course, between hands.

ADJUSTED AND ARTIFICIAL SCORES

An artificial score is awarded by the TD when it is not possible to get or assess a result on a board. These will be 40% (average minus), 50% (average) and at least 60% (average plus). The equivalent of an average plus in teams will be +3 IMPs.

An adjusted score is a score awarded by the TD in lieu of the result actually obtained, after an infraction. For a non-offender, it will be based on the most favourable result for them had the infraction not occurred, and for the offenders the most unfavourable result.

TDs should note that you do not have any right to adjust a contract after an infraction during the bidding. The contract remains, but you may adjust the score to the result expected had the board been played in a different contract.

WRITTEN BIDDING: the laws now specifically require the board to be left in the centre of the table at all times, and specify that the board (not the bidding sheet) is the only legal indication of dealer and vulnerability.

DUMMY'S RIGHTS have been further restricted. He may act to prevent an infringement only by declarer. He may question only declarer re a possible revoke, not the defenders.

QUESTIONING RE POSSIBLE REVOKE: This will be the most difficult area for players to adapt to. The reason for the change is that too much information can be passed by the question "No spades, partner?" especially if it is accompanied by a rather surprised tone of voice! Nor is there any need for dummy to ask a defender except to alert a non-observant declarer. So the situation will be:

Dummy may ask declarer only.

Declarer may ask either defender.

A defender may ask declarer, but not the other defender.

There is no penalty laid down for an infraction of this law. The TD will be entitled to apply a procedural penalty, for example so many match points. If he were satisfied that an established revoke would have occurred without the illegal question, then he would be entitled to apply the penalty for an established revoke to the offenders, without necessarily affecting the score of the non-offenders.

PENALTY CARDS

There is now a new concept of "major" and "minor" penalty cards. A minor one is a card accidentally exposed and which is of less than honour rank. The laws on the major penalty card are as before. There is no penalty for a minor penalty card except that the player must play that card before playing any other non-honour card in that suit. He is entitled to play an honour card in that suit, if he wishes, before playing the penalty card. There is no lead restriction on partner while a minor penalty card is on the table.

Note the TWO requirements for a minor penalty card: it must be a non-honour and it must have been ACCIDENTALLY exposed.

UNAUTHORISED INFORMATION

There is a new approach here. As soon as a player feels that an opponent has conveyed unauthorised information to partner e.g. by a remark, mannerism, or unmistakable hesitation, he should announce that he wishes to reserve his rights.

If the opponents dispute his assessment of the situation, they should call the TD forthwith. Otherwise, the TD should be called as soon as there is evidence that action taken may have been influenced by the unauthorised information. This is essentially the current practice here, except that players have not been required to "reserve their rights". This law is subject to variation by the sponsoring organisation.

During The Auction

Law 23. Note the TD's rights and duties in a situation where an infraction compelled a player to pass at his next turn. If the TD considers that non-offenders were damaged, and that the offender could have known that such damage might have resulted from the enforced pass, then he may award an adjusted score. Note that if the enforced pass was a result of offender's pass at his partner's turn to call, the TD does not even need to think that the offender could have known of the expected damage. He will automatically award an adjusted score if he feels that the non-offenders were damaged.

This is clearly to cover the situations where an unethical player deliberately makes an infraction to prevent partner from bidding e.g. in a highly competitive situation to prevent the phantom save. Note that the pass out of turn when the pass showed values e.g. the forcing pass system is now treated as a bid out of turn.

Law 75D should be noted, particularly 16C, relating to information obtained from calls legally withdrawn after an infraction e.g. failure to alert, or misinformation. Offenders may not make use of their knowledge arising from a call withdrawn by the non-offenders.

Law 75D introduces a new concept. It is the only situation in the laws where a player is obliged to call the attention of the TD to his own refraction. Note that, if you realise you have given an incorrect explanation, you must call the TD immediately. If you realise that your partner has given the wrong information, you must call the TD, but not until you are in a position where alerting partner to his error will cause no damage. So, if your side are declarers, this will be at the end of the auction. If you are defenders, the end of the hand.

Law 27. Insufficient bid. There has been a change here in that, where the insufficient bid was conventional, it may no longer be corrected to a sufficient bid in the same suit without penalty. You must make your bid good, but partner must pass throughout. Note again that the TD's discretion if he feels that the enforced pass damaged the non-offenders. The unethical player can stop his partner's headlong rush into slam by responding 4D to partner's Blackwood, then sign off in 5Nt knowing partner can't bid again.

Note the change in penalties where an insufficient bid is followed by a pass. Law 26 now applies, and Law 26 has also been modified. Law 26 refers to a call withdrawn and replaced by another e.g. insufficient bid, an illegal double, deliberate change of call etc. If the suit named in the withdrawn call is later repeated, there is no penalty; otherwise declarer may demand or forbid the lead of that suit by the offender's partner when he is first on lead. (If the call was one which conventionally refers to two suits, declarer may specify one of the suits). If there was no suit named, in the withdrawn call, then declarer may forbid (but not demand) the lead of a suit which he will nominate when first partner of the offender has the lead.

During Play

FACE DOWN OPENING LEAD: Law 41 — Published last edition of Trump-It.

REVOKES: The revoke penalty has been changed for the better. Hitherto it has been rather fierce compared with the damage done. The new situation will be:

1. Where the OFFENDING PLAYER wins the revoke trick: the revoke trick plus a further trick (if their side won another trick) are transferred at the end of the hand.
2. Where the OFFENDING PLAYER does not win the revoke trick: one trick is transferred if the offending SIDE won the revoke trick or a later one; and if another trick was won by the OFFENDING PLAYER with a card in the revoke suit, then a further trick is transferred.

The TD retains his present obligation to apply adjusted scores where the penalty does not adequately compensate, or where there is no penalty laid down.

CLAIMS, CONCESSIONS, ACQUIESCENCE

A number of changes in these laws 68, 69, 70 and 71.

Acquiescence is a new concept and merely means agreeing to an opponents claim or concession. The essential difference is that there is more latitude in withdrawing acquiescence than a concession.

Law 68C requires an immediate statement of the line of play with a claim.

Note that it is now improper to accept concession of a trick that one did not win, or could not have won.

Cancelling a concession: a concession of a trick that could not have been lost by any "normal" play of the remaining cards may be cancelled up to the end of the round or until a call is made on the next board. (The present laws specify "before the hands have been returned to the board").

A false concession i.e. there was no way in which the trick could have been lost by any legal play of the cards may be cancelled up to the normal appeal time.

Acquiescence can be withdrawn up to the normal appeal time provided that the trick conceded could not have been lost by any "normal" play of the cards, or if it was a "false" acquiescence in that the trick was not lost.

Note the change in definition of "normal" play: it includes play that would be careless or inferior FOR THE CLASS OF PLAYER INVOLVED, but not irrational.

OPENING LEAD OUT OF TURN: Declarer now has a further option. He can spread his hand, become the dummy, and make partner declarer. If he starts to spread his hand before being told his options, then he loses his other options.

DECLARER'S LEAD FROM THE WRONG HAND: This law has been changed so that, if an opponent objects, declarer must lead from the correct hand, but may lead any suit. There is a proviso here where the TD must protect the innocent from the "Alcatraz" coup: in order to find a finessible card, you lead from the wrong hand and see the response of the defenders. If declarer, after this situation, appears to have gained information as to the holdings of the defenders, then the TD should award an adjusted score. TDs will need to be fairly ruthless in applying this discretion.

This paper is not intended to be an exhaustive survey of all the minor changes to the laws. We all need to study the laws in detail, read authoritative reports on the changes, and always to refer to the law book when required to make rulings until we are confident that we are totally familiar with all the nuances of the new laws.

Many of these changes may not directly affect our Club, however, many of our members are now playing duplicate at various clubs in our City. The new laws book is now available and all Tournament Directors are required to refer to it. Players are also required to call the Director whenever an infraction occurs at the table, no matter how minute that infraction may be. [Editor]

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DATES TO BE NOTED

April 27th	-	Annual General Meeting 7 p.m.
May 11th	-	Individual Championship
18th		

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INTRODUCTION OF FREE GAME VOUCHER

As from April 5th (Tuesday)/ 6th (Wednesday) our Free Game Voucher will be introduced into Club play. We start with Open Winners on these dates alternating with the Handicap Winners.