



## **NOVICE NEWS #7 JUNE 2019**

### **What are the Eclectics?**

In bridge, the term 'eclectic' is used for the practice of choosing only the best results achieved in a series of games for calculation of the score awarded for that series.

We all occasionally have terrible days that we wish could be erased from our results. In our eclectic system, you are required to play at least 3 out of 4 or 5 sessions on the same day of the week for one month.

- If you play only 3 sessions, they are all counted for your eclectic score, good or bad.
- If you play 4 sessions your worst result is not counted.
- If you play 5 sessions your two worst results are not counted.

The resulting scores are individual so it is not necessary that you play with the same partner in every session. Throughout the year some eclectics may be sponsored and there is the opportunity to win a prize. Also, it gives you another chance to gain more master points.

### **Are you breaking the rules?**

During the bidding process, telling opponents the meaning of partner's bid without being asked is a violation. Regulations state that only two bids require a verbal announcement. One, if partner opens a natural 1NT, you state the range, for example, 15 to 17. Two, if partner opens 1C you state 3 plus (or whatever you have agreed as a partnership). These will be written accordingly on your systems card. Do not add any embellishment to these announcements unless the opponents ask. All other bids by your partner should be alerted as necessary, but you must say nothing unless the opponents ask you for an explanation. By explaining the meaning without being asked tells partner how you interpret their bid and this sort of communication between partners is clearly not allowed in bridge. After the bidding is complete, and before the first card has been faced, anyone can ask for an explanation of the bidding.

### **Great Names of Bridge. Marty Bergen (b1948)**

Marty Bergen is a giant of post-war bridge. Before retiring from active competition in 1993 he was a ten-time American national champion. He has written 19 notable bridge books. The bidding conventions and treatments that he developed include Bergen Raises and D.O.N.T. (Disturbing Opponent's No Trump).

**June Congress.** Each year in June, the GCBC hosts a weekend of bridge. On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June is the all day Graded Pairs and on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June is the all day Graded Teams. Entry forms are available at the club. As these are graded events, Novices will be playing against others of a similar skill level. It is a popular weekend and is recommended for Novices wishing to gain confidence and experience.

**Rule (Eva Berger). Rotating the board or covering vulnerability information.**

The laws require that the board remains on the table, in the right compass direction, and be visible at all times. This is because any player is entitled to check the vulnerability at any time through the play. Bidding cards should only be returned to the bidding box after the lead card has been faced. These are not to be placed on top of the board. The bidding auction cannot be reviewed after the 3<sup>rd</sup> player has played to the first trick. However, any player can ask at any time what is the contract. Do not rotate the board as this is a sure way that cards will be replaced in the wrong spot leading to fouled boards.

**Tip (Lynley Jenkins)**

When defending, it is important to take note of partner's opening lead. Not only which **suit** they lead but also which **card**.

- A low card usually promises an honour in that suit. An honour card usually promises the card below. A middling card suggests a passive lead, perhaps from nothing. The card partner chooses to lead can help you to visualize their holding.
- It is frequently right to return your partner's suit but not always. Be guided by both the **bidding** and the cards in **dummy**.
- When changing to a new suit it is best to lead through strength (or probable strength) and up to weakness in dummy. The **card** you now choose to lead also sends partner a message as to your holding in that suit.

**GCBC By-Law**

At least 10 minutes before the scheduled starting time each player physically present (and only those players) must fill out (or cause to be filled out on their behalf), and place on the table at which they intend to play in the first round, an attendance slip noting their presence. Placing a bag or other items on the table will not secure the table for you. The club may grant a physically disabled person the facility to reserve a table and/or have an attendance slip filled out on their behalf without that player being present. The club may withdraw such facility at any time without reason.

**Etiquette**

Wait until at least one opponent has arrived at the table before removing the cards from the board. It is a matter of courtesy, but also is a requirement under the laws.

**Quote**

*One learns best by playing against and with the best players.* Bradley Lehman

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