

## **Dos and Don'ts?**

### **Dos**

Bridge is a game of rules and regulations as well as etiquettes and civilities. Even as dummy you have certain rights and should exercise them to protect your partner.

The most common right is to try to prevent partner from revoking, and this applies to the defenders as well. If partner shows out in a suit early on, ask: "any ,,,,,, partner?" If they do find a card after all, the penalty will be reduced or even minimal if corrected before playing to the next trick. If you have accidentally revoked, you are not obliged to own up to it if no other player noticed, nor should your partner bring it to the opponent's attention.

Another one of dummy's rights is to try and prevent Declarer from leading from the wrong hand.

----- You have to be quick though -----.

When putting the dummy down on the table, ensure that the trump suit is placed on your right, and it is a good idea to put the suit led onto the table last, so Declarer sees the whole hand before they are tempted to play a card from dummy.

### **Don'ts**

One of the major traps that players fall into is to ask about a bid that has been alerted when they have no intention to bid. Don't ask and then pass as it can have serious repercussions on partner if they have something to bid, or may be seen to suggest a suit to lead. The opponents may think that partner took a hint from your questions instead of just bidding or playing their own hand.

Another common problem is a noticeable pause for thought after a pre-emptive opening bid on your right, followed by a pass. Partner will need a sound reason to bid or double in the pass-out seat, otherwise it could be seen to have been influenced by your hesitation. For this reason, the UK and NZ (maybe others?) have a rule forcing the next player to call after a jump bid or opening to wait a few seconds before doubling, bidding or passing.

If you did not clearly see an opponent's card before it was turned over, you can ask to see it again, AS LONG AS YOU HAVE NOT TURNED YOUR CARD OVER. But ask to see it, DO NOT REACH ACROSS AND TURN AN OPPONENT'S CARD OVER. Under no circumstances are you allowed to touch an opponent's card unless requested by Declarer because dummy has left the table.

When you are dummy, do not touch any card until Declarer nominates it to be played, even when obvious (such as a singleton).

At the completion of the play of the hand, do not fold up and shuffle your cards until the final result has been agreed. This is to allow a claim for a different number of tricks to be investigated. If you have shuffled your cards so that it is not possible to check the play, any reasonable claim by your opponents may have to be accepted.