

Macarthur Collegians Bridge Club

NEWSLETTER NO 36 - DEC 2017

Dear Member:

Vi Martin, Director has asked that the information below be made available to you.

Source: ABF Newsletter No 188 November 2017

LAURIE'S LAWS by Laurie Kelso

REVOKES (Laws 61 - 64)

The Laws consider a revoke to be a very serious offence:

"In playing to a trick, each player must follow suit if possible.

This obligation takes precedence over all other requirements..."

(Law 44C).

In an effort to negate the effect of revokes, the laws require their immediate correction, but only if discovered before a member of the offending side (that means either the revoker or his partner) plays to the next trick.

To correct a revoke, the offender simply substitutes a legal card for the illegal one. In addition, if the revoker is a defender then the illegally exposed card becomes a penalty card, which stays on the table to be played at the first legal opportunity. The good news is that when a revoke is discovered within time, there's no further penalty.

Whenever a player fails to follow suit, his partner has the right to enquire as to whether he has a card of the suit led. This right to ask varies slightly depending upon of the player:

- Dummy may only ask declarer.
- Declarer may ask either defender.
- Defenders may ask one another or declarer.

A revoke that remains undetected until after a member of the offending side plays to the next trick is said to have become established. Other ways that a revoke can be established include claiming, conceding and agreeing to a claim or a concession. It is only an established revoke (those discovered too late to correct) that can incur a penalty. Now the hand must be played to completion before the Director can apply any sort of rectification.

When a revoke is established, at least one of the subsequent tricks won by the offending side is usually transferred to the opponents. The exact number of tricks varies with circumstance:

- If the offending side lost the revoke trick and all subsequent ones, no tricks are transferred.
- If the revoke card actually won the trick and the offending side also won a subsequent trick, a minimum of two tricks are transferred to the opposition.
- In all other cases, the offenders only give away one trick.

Note specifically that it is only two tricks if the revoke card won the trick. If the revoking player's partner won it then the standard adjustment is just one trick. Also, you never have to give up tricks won before the offence occurred. It's only the revoke trick and the subsequent tricks which are up for grabs.

The automatic transfer of tricks following a revoke is non-discretionary and independent of any potential damage that might have been caused. Sometimes the non-offenders gain an unexpected windfall due to a revoke, sometimes the number of tricks received just balances the actual loss, and sometimes the non-offenders still find themselves disadvantaged.

In a situation where the automatic trick transfer fails to compensate the non-offending side adequately for the damage sustained, the Director is still empowered (via Law 64C1) to award an adjusted score. Since the general underlying principle of any score adjustment is to redress damage, the Director simply adjusts the result back to what he believes would have been the normal outcome without any infraction.

Laurie Kelso.



- No Bridge **Tuesday night, 12th December**— no room is available at the Catholic Club
- Bridge is ON **Saturday 23rd December**
- No Bridge **Tuesday night 26th December**—Boxing Day
- Bridge is ON **Thursday 28th December** and **Saturday 30th December**
- Bridge is ON **Tuesday night 2nd January 2018**



Until next time.....
Sue McGarrity