

Problem Players

Every club has their problem members – in one form or another - that's part of what makes life colourful.

But unpleasant interactions are not acceptable. Besides the hurt they cause, they contribute to loss of attendance and loss of members. This needs to be addressed in a concerted effort. There is no magic sliver bullet that cures unacceptable social behaviour.

It really is up to the committee to be actively involved in working with the directors to gradually eliminate unsocial behaviour at the club.

For progress to be made the director needs the full support of the committee- or else the director, who is the official representative of the club, will appear to be unnecessarily officious.

What to do?

For minor offences often a quiet word aside to the offending player will be all that is required and is always a good first step.

For more serious types of unacceptable behaviour, once the director is made aware of the situation he/she should as soon as possible approach the player/ players involved and say something like:

“ I find this behaviour completely unacceptable, and upsetting for others, so please lets get on and play bridge without any further disruption.”

The director should now expect complete co-operation and should not involve himself with further discussions about the rights and wrongs.

Any further disagreements with the director's request (by the offender or the innocent parties) should result in a procedural penalty issued immediately by the director and this should be reported to the committee who should then further sanction the player/s involved if necessary.

The director and the club can remind players that there is a recorder to whom they can lay a complaint if they feel they need to.

The Law

The director does indeed have substantial “ powers” as prescribed by Law 81C, Law 90 and Law 91.

A player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times, and should carefully avoid any remark or action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game (74A)

Note the director has the right to suspend a player for a session or part of the session, but this should seldom if ever be necessary.

Below is a Guide to Bridge Players behaviour.

A guide for Bridge player's behaviour

Expected Behaviour

Anything that makes bridge more enjoyable for others

1. Greeting others in a friendly manner prior to start of play on each round.
2. Be a good "host" or "guest" at the table.
3. Making your convention card readily available to your opponents and filling it out completely.
4. Do EVERYTHING possible to make bridge enjoyable for your partner and the opponents.
5. Give credit when opponents make a good bid or play.

Unacceptable Behaviour

Anything that makes bridge less enjoyable for others

1. Publicly criticizing partner or opponents.
2. Badgering, rudeness, insinuations, profanity, threats or violence.
3. Negative comments concerning opponents' or partner's play or bidding.
4. Gloating over good results.
5. Objecting to a call for the director.
6. Disputing or arguing with a directors ruling or request.
7. Poor personal hygiene, grooming or dress.