

# 15- 2024 – Poker Face

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Here is a plea by me for all of us to remain poker-faced and silent during bidding

At a recent game, the bidding went:

North	East	South	West
2C (1)	P	2D (2)	P
2NT (3)	P	3C (4)	P
3NT (5)	P	P	P

- (1) Strong
- (2) Waiting bid
- (3) Balanced hand
- (4) [Presumably Stayman– we did not ask]
- (5) The Bidder said ‘Oh I do not know what to do’, before making this bid

## MORAL OF THE STORY

From my observations over many years, the Director is called for 3 broad categories:

1. *Administrative Matters* – a Partner has not shown up before start time; a hand-held computer does not work; a scoring error; a missing card; where to move to next; etc. The Director usually remedies these quickly
2. *Innocent Errors* – a bid out of turn; play out of turn; revoke; etc. The Director may impose a penalty for infringements. Also, where there is a dispute over how many tricks were made, the Director will decide how many Tricks were made by reviewing the play
3. *Comment or Unfair Information* – here a Player may say something during bidding (as happened to us above) or during card-playing, or play a card in a way that Partner should note it (for example a lead or discard played in a special way –say, with force). It is not much fun for the Opponents when an ‘announcement’ occurs, or card-play is forceful. The Opponents can call the Director, who may make an adjustment. But most of us don’t want to do this as it introduces an element of unpleasantness into the game, akin to allegations of cheating

So, my plea is for all of us to remain poker faced and silent during bidding, and during card play to play cards simply and the same way always. After the Hand is over socialising can begin!

Ian Morison

12 April 2024