

Ever thought about becoming a bridge director?

Clubs are always on the lookout for members to learn the laws of bridge and become directors for their club sessions. If this might be for you, read on.....

Club directors do not need to be law experts. They need to understand the basic laws, and also need to be able to find their way around the law book. There are some publications that make this very easy, including a small booklet titled “The Director Is Called” which provides a very easy guide to the typical calls a director has to deal with. There is also a 2 page “cheat sheet”

that most directors at our local clubs use, so you can quickly look down the list of infractions and see what to do.

Directors also need a basic understanding of movements, but that doesn't have to be very complicated. Your club will have preferred movements for different numbers of tables, which eliminates the decision-making. And with Bridgemates and foolproof scoring software used at most clubs these days, it's pretty much impossible to get a movement wrong.

You do not need to be a qualified director to direct a club session. You just need to convince the Club's Games Director that you can handle the job. However, for those who want to further their directing career, there is a qualification process – there are formal Club and Congress Director exams run by the QBA every year, then beyond that, there's State Director, then National 1, 2 and 3, then International, all of which are attained by individual assessment usually working at major gold point events.

New directors don't get thrown into the deep end from the start. They can co-direct with an experienced director in sessions that require 2 directors, so there's always someone available they can turn to for advice.

An important point to remember is that knowledge of the laws can only be good for your game. It's very beneficial to know your options after an opponent's infraction without having to wait for the director to tell you, and you can be making your mind up before you're put under the spotlight when the director advises the table your rights.

If you're interested, a good starting point is to shadow an experienced director for a while. When they get called to a table, you follow them and listen in. After a while, you might make the ruling while the experienced director stands by. Your Games Director can arrange this for you.

Your Club will be only too pleased to help you get started, either by some initial one-on-one coaching, or in a small group. For more details, speak to your Games Director:

Sunshine Coast – Peter Busch

Caloundra – Alan Maltby

Coolum – Ken Dawson

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