

Continuing our look at Ethics and Behaviour, here's a quiz. Which of these is allowed and which not allowed:

A. To open 1NT (ostensibly 12-14) when holding 11 points?

B. To bid after your partner has hesitated?

C. To hesitate when you have a singleton?

A. Perfectly allowed. If you decide that your 11 looks like 12, open 1NT. If your opponents tell you that you're cheating, they completely wrong, and totally missing the point. High-card points are only a guide to bidding, no more.

B. Allowed, but only if you were going to bid anyway. If the opponents believe you have bid based on partner's pause rather than your hand, they are entitled to call the Director. However (a) they should give new players lots of leeway here and (b) if they do feel the Director should be called, they should do so politely and gently.

Don't shout "DIRECTOR". Say to the opponents, "would you mind awfully if I asked the Director to come over?" before putting up your hand and saying calmly "Director, please". He will then decide whether the bid was acceptable.

C. Not allowed. Cheating. You can never pause with the deliberate intention of misleading; only pause when you genuinely have something to think about. If you find that you've paused inadvertently (easily done in a distracted moment), say "sorry, I had nothing to think about".

Dealer: South, Vulnerability: Neither

Pairs	♠ Q1065 ♥ Q92 ♦ A1097 ♣ K6	♠ A32 ♥ A ♦ QJ86542 ♣ Q9			
♠ J9874 ♥ J864 ♦ - ♣ 8543	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ K ♥ K10753 ♦ K3 ♣ AJ1072
N					
W E					
S					

S	W	N	E
1♥	Pass	1♠	2♦
3♣	Pass	4♥	End

Contract: 4♥, Opening Lead: ♠4

Today's deal comes from a chilly Fall Nationals in Rhode Island. You as East bid diamonds, then see partner lead a spade. Did partner forget you bid? Surely not – there is a far more rational reason for partner not to have led a diamond. He doesn't have one. You win the ace of spades (felling declarer's king) and return a diamond. But which one?

To ask for an unusual trump, you lead a highly odd-looking jack of diamonds. West ruffs and works out to return a heart. You win your singleton ace and give partner a second diamond ruff: down one.

Say West had returned a club. Declarer beats the queen with the ace, crosses to the king, cashes the queen of spades discarding the king of diamonds (key play) and leads a low heart. You win your bare ace and try a diamond, but declarer ruffs with the king, leads a heart to dummy's nine, cashes the queen felling West's jack and claims. andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk