

How to Keep Your Director Happy

Slow play is your easiest route to success. This being the case, the following suggestions may help:

1. When you get to the club, socialize with all your friends right up to game time. Only when the game commences is it time to go for that restroom break you've needed since you arrived.
2. Round timers are for decorative purposes only. Never pay any attention to them or any random noises they may make. It took you only twenty minutes to play the first two boards. Surely you can bid and play the third board after the "two-minute-warning" has sounded.
3. When it's your lead, make sure to write down the contract in your convention card and enter it into the terminal prior to actually making the lead. If you're dummy, do the same before facing your hand on the table.
4. When you are the dummy, get up for a smoke break. The other players love to play your cards for you.
5. Rehash each deal at great length prior to playing the next. While you are at it, speak loudly and clearly, ensuring that as many players as possible will be impressed with your analysis.
6. If you have accidentally passed out a deal and are actually ready to move when the round is called, don't. Discuss the weather or your grandchildren until you are sure you are several minutes behind.
7. When moving for the next round, do so slowly. Stop for water, coffee, snacks, etc. Say hello to other players on the move and engage them in a lengthy chat about the stock market, world peace, politics or religion.
8. If you are sitting N-S and are waiting for your next opponents, do not use the time to go to the restroom or get water, coffee, snacks, etc. You should do these things only after your new opponents have finally arrived at the table. After all, they made you wait.
9. If you are sitting E-W and find yourselves behind a slow pair, you must slow down as well. Feign an excuse to go to the restroom and spend five or ten minutes washing your hands. Two benefits accrue. First, you will now be "in synch" with the pair in front of you, relieving you of the need to stand around waiting for them to finish. Second, you will have very clean hands.
10. If the director is hovering around your table and requesting that you speed up play, be certain to inform him that it isn't your fault that you are behind and then ignore him. Directors love to hover and will be disappointed if you move too quickly.
11. Once you have managed to get suitably behind, make absolutely no effort to catch up. Doing this would only serve to spoil the symmetry of the movement.
12. If you are in danger of finishing a round on time, wait until all cards have been returned to a board before contesting the result. You will be amazed how effective this can be in slowing things down. The ensuing minutes are usually quite entertaining as well. Also, keep in mind that the Director has nothing to do most of the time and will appreciate the diversion.

A Couple of Other Things You Can Do

- If scoring with terminals, just hit "next" and enter the score – pay no attention to the actual number of the board you just played. When scoring on travelers, do so on random lines. On the first round, put your score on the line number of the board you played. If you find another pair has beaten you to it and taken "your" line, simply put your score on any open line.
- At the end of the session, leave as big a mess behind as possible. Directors love to pick up trash, straighten chairs, etc. Since they have no life outside the bridge club, you are actually doing them a special favor by extending their day in the only place where they are truly comfortable.