

# **Aluette**



## **Background**

**The game Aluette (or La Vache, which means a cow in French) first appears in France in the 16<sup>th</sup> century where it was documented by Francois Rabelais. The game may be older, as it uses a Spanish deck of cards, older than the French deck of cards developed in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.**

**It is a trick taking game that uses a Spanish deck of 48 cards. This is a standard 52 card deck with all the 10s removed. It is generally played by 4 players paired at partners, but can be played by 2 players.**

### **Dealing**

**The dealer is selected by whatever means desired. The dealer deals nine cards to each player beginning with the player to the dealer's left and continuing in a clockwise motion.**

### **Trump and Following Suit**

**There is no trump suit and the players are not required to follow suit.**

### **Playing the trick**

**The player to the left of the dealer leads the first card and thereafter, the winner of the trick leads the next. The other players each play a card following the order of the deal. The highest card played takes the trick. If the trick is a tie, the cards are set aside and the winner of the next trick wins all the cards. If a tie occurs on the last hand, then the winner of the first hand wins the trick.**

## **Card Ranking**

**The ranking of the cards during play is somewhat unusual. The cards are divided into four categories which are ranked highest to lowest below:**

### **❖ Luettes –**

- **3 of Clubs**
- **3 of Hearts**
- **2 of Clubs**
- **2 of Hearts**

### **❖ Doubles**

- **9 of Hearts**
- **9 of Clubs**
- **2 of Diamonds**
- **2 of Spades**

### **❖ Figures**

- **All Kings regardless of suit**
- **All Queens regardless of suit**
- **All Jacks regardless of suit**

### **❖ Bigailles**

- **All the remaining cards in the following order, 9s – 8s – 7s – 6s – 5s – 4s – 3s – 2s**

## **Scoring**

**The first player or team to win 12 hands wins the game. After all nine cards are played, the winner is determined as follows:**

- ❖ The player or team with the most tricks**
- ❖ A player who has the Three of Diamonds wins the hand, even if they do not have the most tricks**
- ❖ A player who has the Jack of Spades loses the hand, even if they have the most tricks**