

CONGRESS DIRECTOR COURSE  
By REG BUSCH

LESSON 7B

With the accreditation examination coming up soon, what I hope to find the time for is to reproduce some questions from previous congress accreditation examination papers and provide my own answers. I hope to organize this within a week or so. Meantime, a few things to be going on with.

1. South is dealer, but East out of turn makes an opening bid of 2H, which shows hearts and an unspecified minor. The out of turn bid is not accepted, so the bid is cancelled and West is barred for the auction. NS get to 4S with West to make the opening lead. What are the lead penalties?

2. Same situation, but this time East does get in a heart bid in the first round of the legal auction. What are the lead penalties on West?

Law 26 covers this. You apply 26A when the withdrawn call related to a specific suit or suits, and 26B for all other withdrawn calls. But what about a call such as East's 2H which has one specified suit and one unspecified? There has been official clarification of this (as I recall, via an official interpretation by the WBF Laws Committee). Use 26A only when *all* suits are specified, otherwise use 26B.

Example 1: 2D Flannery (showing hearts and spades) is the withdrawn call. Apply 26A. Penalty: declarer may require offender's partner to lead a heart or not lead a heart; or he may require him to lead a spade or not lead a spade. (note that he can't forbid both a heart or a spade lead).

Example 2: 2H as above (showing hearts and an unspecified minor) is the withdrawn call. Apply 26B. Under 26B, declarer may not demand, merely prohibit. So he can prohibit the lead of any one suit which he specifies. Make this a little more complex. Suppose that the 2H bidder had later bid his heart suit during the auction, but not his minor. May declarer forbid a heart lead from West? I believe so because we are applying Law 26, which says nothing about suits being specified during the legal auction. Let's go even further. Suppose East had during the auction later bid his hearts and his minor club suit. May declarer forbid a heart lead or forbid a club lead? For the same reason, I believe so. Seems unfair. Another gap in the Laws?

3. Bd 18. N/S Dlr E Teams

AJ7  
KJ82  
875  
875

10654	A
AJ943	K106
J3	10962

Q65  
Q973  
Q2  
AKQ4

W	N	E	S
		P	1NT (15-17)
P	2C	2S*	P
3H	P	3S	All pass

\* Alerted by West and explained as showing spades and hearts. Explanation incorrect.

Result EW –100.

NS claim damage in that, without the misexplanation, they would have found their heart fit. How would you rule?

**Comment:**

Follow our usual catechism.

Was there MI? Yes, obviously.

Was there also UI? Yes, East heard West's explanation that her bid shows hearts and spades. This UI East can't act on. If there had been no alert and explanation, a likely explanation of West's 3H bid would be a hand which can't tolerate spades but has a long heart suit. With the heart Ace, there is no reason for East to disturb 3H, even if it were doubled.

So here we have both MI and UI. Were NS damaged? If NS get to 4H, they are likely to go one off. With their methods, and given no MI, can South bid 3H over East's 2S. Will this propel them to 4H going off? If South passes over the 2S, remember that West will still bid 3H because of her misunderstanding. Would North now double? Possibly not given her failure to double 3H or 3S in the actual auction..

I felt that the likely result for NS would be +200 in defending 3H undoubled, and adjusted the score accordingly.