

CONGRESS DIRECTOR COURSE  
By REG BUSCH

LESSON 8B

I presented this ruling problem to you in lesson 8.

Bd 16 Dlr W Vul EW

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		10 8642	
		Q6	
		AKJ864	
AK109742			Q865
Q95			J
AK9			J107543
---			93
		J3	
		AK75	
		82	
		Q10752	
W	N	E	S
1S	2S	#P	3C
4S	5C	P	P
5S	6C	P	P
Dbl	All pass		

Result: EW 300.

# Asked about the 2S bid, told it was a spade suit.

At the end of the play, I was called to the table with West complaining that South had misinformed them, and North admitting wrong information by South (she said her bid was actually Michael's cue bid). East said she would have supported West's spades if she had known it was Michael's cue bid and West said she would have bid 6S. North then said she would have overcalled 7C, and West countered she would then have bid 7S!

What did you decide?. Here are my comments:

I find this situation quite incredible! I would need to talk to the players but here are my thoughts.

Did East really believe South's explanation of the 2S bid? Does anyone in the world these days play this as natural? Presumably EW are playing 5 card majors, so East knows immediately that the explanation is wrong. She knows even more strongly when she hears West bid all the way up to 5S entirely on her own without a peep from East herself.

Did West really believe the explanation? If she did, then her subsequent bidding is consistent only with a sudden outburst of insanity. Who in their right mind, vul v not, would bid on their own to 5S knowing there are 5 or 6 spades to the probable QJ on her left, with partner possibly void! Whilst EW may be a pair whose policy is never to let yourself be outbid by the opponents, I have to assume sanity at the bridge table, so am forced to the conclusion that West knew that the info was wrong, and acted on that assumption.

Did South continue to believe her explanation correct after hearing West bid to the 5 level all on her own? If she became aware later in the auction of an error in her explanation, then she should have immediately called the Director.

Would EW realistically have got to 6S if given the correct info? Would West bid 6S, knowing that there may be two immediate losers in hearts, with the heart hand on lead? Would East have bid 6S looking at two or three possible losers? Remember that West did not open with a strong forcing bid; she opened only 1S.

All the EW comments are of course being wise after the event. Even if they did accept the push to 6S, would not West have at least contemplated the diamond finesse rather than count on the break (she has the entries for it)? On the bidding North could easily be 0-6-1-6 in distribution. And, had EW gone to 7S, then North would know that West was void in clubs, so would seek salvation elsewhere, and may try the heart suit for one off.

So, my summary:

Was there MI? Yes.

Were EW damaged? I think probably not. NS blundered into their best spot. I don't believe that EW were misled by the MI, and suspect that they both know the info was wrong. I don't believe any sensible EW pair would bid to 6S given the correct info, and even if they did they may well go off. Remember that I have to assume some sort of bridge sanity amongst the players.

It seems to me that EW have got a poor score because NS blundered into their best spot, and that EW are now asking the director to rescue them.

I would be inclined to let the score stand. If South indicated that she suspected a wrong explanation at some stage during the auction, I might apply a procedural penalty for failing to call the Director at that time.

Since I wrote the above, Keith checked the results at the other tables in this event. These are not really relevant, but are of interest. There were 7 tables:

Two tables (including the problem table) played in 6CX for 10 tricks

One table played in 4S making 10 tricks (how is it possible to make only 10 tricks? Was there a revoke?).

Three tables played in 5S making 13 tricks.

One table played in 6S making 12 tricks. Perhaps they accepted the push.

So, with one EW pair out of six getting to 6S, West's claim that she would have bid 6S given the correct info must be taken with a grain of salt.

### **Exam Papers:**

Here is one exam paper from the two I sent in lesson 9, with my answers.

#### **CONGRESS ACCREDITATION EXAMINATION 1995 - PAPER 2**

Answers may be brief, but you should indicate the reasons for your answer, and show that you understand the applicable law(s).

Q 1. West is the dealer, but South opens 1C Precision out of turn. The bid is not accepted by West. What ruling do you make?

*A: Law 31B. The bid is cancelled and North must pass throughout. South may bid at his turn as he likes.*

Subsequently West bids 1S raised to 4S by East with no competitive bidding. North is on lead. What are the lead penalties, if any?

*A: Law 26B. The 1C bid is an artificial bid which does not specify or relate to a specified suit. When North is first to lead, declarer may forbid the lead of any one suit which he may name. He can't demand a lead.*

Q 2. North is dealer. South starts to bid out of turn, gets as far as writing '1' on the bidding slip when he is told that he is not dealer. You are called. How do you rule?

*Definitions: a bid consists of an undertaking to win a number of tricks in a specified denomination. So '1' is not a bid. It is UI to North, and North may take no subsequent action influenced by his knowledge that South probably has a 1 level opening bid.*

Q 3. South has made an Ace enquiry, and North systemically shows three aces. South knows that North has made a mistake, as he holds two Aces. East asks about North's bid. What explanation should South give?

*A: South's obligation is to explain the meaning of North's bid under their partnership agreement. He should explain that the bid shows three aces even though he knows that the*

*bid is incorrect. He has no obligation to explain this error, because it would reveal knowledge which he has from his own card holding.*

North subsequently realises that he has made a mistake in his Ace showing response. Is he obliged to alert the opponents to his error?

*A: No. One must alert opponents to one's own side's misexplanation, but not to our misbids.*

Q 4. The bidding goes:

W	N	E	S
1NT	P	2D	P
2H			

At this stage West remembers to alert the 2D bid as conventional, a transfer to hearts. You are called. South claims that he would have taken some action over the 2D bid had he known it was conventional. How do you rule?

*A: Law 21B. Failure to alert = misinformation. South may retract his pass, and substitute another bid without penalty. Under 16C, his original pass is AI to North, but UI to EW. South's likely change of call is to double 2D. West may now change his call also. Perhaps West will now pass. His original 2H call (e.g. his failure to superaccept) is UI to East.*

Would your ruling be any different if North had passed over West's 2H bid before West remembered to alert?

*A: Yes. Under 21B, South may change his call only if partner has not subsequently called. It's now too late, but under 21B3, the director may adjust the score later if there has been damage. Technically, South's remark that he would have taken action if the 2D call had been alerted is UI to North (his probable action would have been to double), and North may not take action based on this. However, the Director will adjust the score if necessary if South's inability to double 2D damaged NS.*

Q 5. The bidding goes:

W	N	E	S
1S	X	P	XX

You are called. How do you rule?

*A: Law 36. An inadmissible double. Must be corrected, and partner must pass throughout.*

What would be your ruling if the XX had been followed by three passes?

*A: The inadmissible redouble has been 'condoned' by the opponents. But this is not condoning in the same sense as an insufficient bid or a call out of turn is condoned. In these cases, the illegal call stands and becomes a part of the legal auction. When an inadmissible double is condoned, the only result is the opponents have forfeited their rights to any penalty. The bidding reverts to the offender, who must replace his illegal call with a legal call, and there is no penalty on partner and no lead penalties.*

Q 6. West is dealer and opens 2C Precision. North does not notice the opening bid, and makes a bid of 1NT. When this is pointed out as insufficient, he corrects his bid to 2D. At this stage you are called. What is your ruling?

*A: Law 27. The 97 version of Law 97 is poorly drafted. The 87 Laws had specific provision for what happens after a premature attempt to correct an insufficient bid. Note that Law 25B does not apply here. (see 25B1). In other words, LHO does not have the option of accepting the substituted call of 3D. The WBF Laws Committee has clarified that we adopt the same approach as in the 87 Laws. This is that we cancel the premature correction to 3D. We revert to the insufficient bid of 1NT, and give give East his option to accept it. If he so chooses, bidding proceeds but with the 3D call being a withdrawn call. If he chooses not to accept it, then we apply law 27 in relation to the 1NT call.*

North subsequently bids diamonds during the auction. EW are the declaring side in 3S. What are the lead penalties for NS, if any?

*A: North has two withdrawn calls: 1NT and 3D. Under law 26A1, there is no lead penalty for the 3D call because he has later specified diamonds during the legal auction. However, his original 1NT withdrawn call remains subject to penalty under 26B. Declarer may forbid the lead of a specified suit by South. May he forbid for example a diamond lead? I believe so, under Law 26B.*

Q 7. East makes his face down opening lead, and then calls you to ask may he change his lead. What is your answer?

*A: Law 41A and 47E2. Under 41A he may not retract his card because of a change of mind, only after an irregularity. The irregularity may be that he should not have been on lead, and as long as the card is still face down one would allow the retraction. Otherwise he may retract his card only if misinformation comes to light after he has selected the card. Note that, under 47E2, he may retract his opening lead after MI comes to light even if his opening lead has been faced. But he may not do so if dummy has faced any card. However, his right to an adjusted score remains.*

Q 8. South calls you to the table. He has looked at his cards, and then finds he has 14 cards. No other player has yet looked at his cards, but East has only 12 cards. The C2 is the card South holds belonging to the East hand. What do you do in this situation?

*A: Law 13B1. If you decide that the C2 is an inconsequential card and that South's seeing this card will not affect subsequent bidding or play, you may restore the C2 to the correct hand and allow play to continue. But note that this must be with the concurrence of all players at the table.*

Would your ruling be different if South had made an opening pass before discovering that he held 14 cards?

*A: Law 13. A player with an incorrect hand (South) has made a call – pass. If you are satisfied that the hand can still be rescued without a change of call, you may again correct the hands and allow play to proceed. Again, you must have the concurrence of all four players.*

Q 8. Explain the meaning and significance of the term 'self-alerting bid'. List those bids which are classed as self-alerting under QBA and ABF regulations.

*A: Self-alerting calls are calls which have so many different meanings or treatments by various partnerships that there is no single meaning which can be regarded as standard. When such a call is made, it is treated as though it had been automatically alerted. Self-alerting calls include doubles and redoubles, bids above 3NT and cue bids. A cue bid for the purposes of the regulations is defined as a bid of the suit named by an opponent or of a suit indicated by an opponent's bid. For example, if a bid of 1D actually shows a 4 card spade suit, a bid of 1S or 2D would be a cue bid, and therefore not alertable.*

Q 9. (a) West has the H2 on the table as a minor penalty card. South plays on spades (which are trumps) and West must discard on the third round of spades. You rule that West must play the H2. Right or wrong?

*A: Wrong. Law 50C. The only restriction is that West may not play a non-honour card in hearts until he has first played the H2.*

(b) Again, West has the H2 as a minor penalty card. A few tricks later, he accidentally drops the S5 on the table when playing to a trick. You rule that the H2 and the S5 are both minor penalty cards. Right or wrong?

*A: Wrong. Law 50D. When a defender has two or more penalty cards, both become major penalty cards.*

Q 10. Spades are trumps. South the declarer leads a heart from dummy which East ruffs. South plays a small heart, as does West. East now discovers that he does have a heart, so he replaces the spade with the H9.

South now asks may he withdraw his small heart and play a different one. Your ruling?

*A: Yes, he may. Law 62C Note that under 16C, the original card played by South is UI to EW*

West also asks may he change his card played. Your answer?

*A: Yes. Law 62C2. But note that, if he does so, his originally played card becomes a major penalty card. Note also that his right to change his card applies only if South has chosen to change his.*

Q 11. South is declarer. East looks as though he is about to make the opening lead out of turn, but North says 'It is not your lead'. Is there any problem with this?

*A: Laws 17E and Laws 42, 43. The latter two Laws cover dummy's rights. Those rights extend to preventing an infraction by declarer, but not by defenders. To prevent an infraction by a defender could be seen as an infraction of Law 43C (participating in the play). However, look at Law 17E. The auction period has not ended until the opening lead is faced, so in this example we are still in the auction period. There is not yet a dummy, only a potential dummy. Under Law 9A1, any player may call attention to an irregularity during the auction, and I would see this right as extending to preventing a threatened irregularity.*

Q 12. During a pairs event, a player comes to you and says 'In the first board of the previous round, I conceded the HJ at the end, thinking that the HQ was still not played. The opponents accepted the trick. I now realise that the HJ was high, and that I actually should have won that trick.' What action, if any, do you take?

*A: Law 71A. This player has conceded a trick that he has in fact won. Provided you are still within the appeal time under 79C, you will give him his trick.*

*Also look at Law 72A2. If the opponents accepted the conceded trick knowing that it was not their trick, they have breached Law 72A2 and are subject to penalty.*

Q 13. You are running a barometer Howell movement, with some tables slow to move. At one table the bidding has gone North 1NT East Pass South 2C. At this stage, another pair come to the table, and it is realised that EW are sitting at the wrong table. How do you handle this problem?

*A: Law 15C. Cancel the auction. Seat the players correctly at the two tables affected, and allow the auction to re-start. Instruct the pair who previously played the board at this table that they must repeat the calls they had made in the auction to date. If any call differs in any way from the previous auction, cancel the board and award an artificial adjusted score.*

Q 14. In a highly competitive auction, with NS bidding hearts and EW spades, the bidding has reached 6S by East, pass by South, pass by West. North has not yet bid when South makes the opening lead face up. You are called. How do you rule?

*A: Law 24B. The card is prematurely lead. North must pass at his next turn (which is now). So the contract is 6S by East. However, we must now look at Law 23. South by his infraction has effectively prevented North from bidding, possibly a sacrifice in 7H, possibly even a double of 6S. If you deem that South could have known when he made his lead that barring partner might advantage his side, you may award an adjusted score. You don't have to impute impure motives to this particular South, merely decide that any South, perhaps one with less than pure motives, may have known that barring partner could be to their advantage. If, for example, 6S went one off and you considered it possible that South given the opportunity may have taken the phantom, then you may adjust to the result for 7HX going off whatever number of tricks.*