EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

LEAD OUT OF TURN DURING THE BIDDING

by **Antonio Riccardi**

1

	♠ A J 10 4 2	Board 4
	♥ 10 9 8 5 3	W/all
	♦ 8	
	♣ A 8	

♠ 6 3	N	♠ 9 8 7
♥ A		♥ Q
♦ A K Q 9 2	W E	♦ J 10 7 5 3
♣ Q J 10 7 2	S	♣ K 9 5 3

	♠ K Q 5
	♥ K J 7 6 4 2
	♦ 6 4
	♣ 6 4

W	N	E	S
1♣ *	X **	P ***	4♥
P			

*	"strong"
**	majors
***	0-7

At this point South (Miss Ferlazzo) picks up the 4♥ bidding card and West does the same. West leads ♦A and South opens the screen. North and East shout "what are you doing? The bidding is not finished". TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR!!!!!!!!!

T.D. stated South was thinking that the auction was over and West acted automatically. T.D. considered both sides at fault. He permitted to withdraw ♦A (U.I. for both sides).
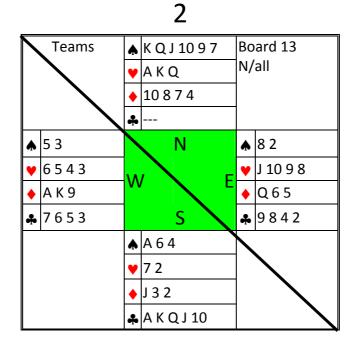
Bidding continued: pass by North, 4NT by East, pass by South, 5♣ by West. END

Final result: 5♣-1.

East seems to have the cards to bid. T.D. decision was: score stands.

Is it a case where to apply Law 24 (possibly Law 23) or not?

Does it make difference whether the screen has been opened by South or by West?

2

	♠ K Q J 10 9 7	Board 13
Teams	♥ A K Q	N/all
	♦ 10 8 7 4	
	♣ ---	

♠ 5 3	N	♠ 8 2
♥ 6 5 4 3		♥ J 10 9 8
♦ A K 9	W E	♦ Q 6 5
♣ 7 6 5 3	S	♣ 9 8 4 2

	♠ A 6 4
	♥ 7 2
	♦ J 3 2
	♣ A K Q J 10

W	N	E	S
	1♠	P	2♣
P	2♦	P	4♠
P			

While North is thinking, West leads ♦A and South opens the screen.

Is it a case where to apply Law 24 (possibly Law 23) or not?

T.D. permits to withdraw ♦A (U.I. for both sides) and the bidding goes on. Now North passes and, after a ♥ lead, makes 13 tricks.

We apply Law 23 for both sides:

1. When South opened the screen could he have known that his action could give him an advantage? YES. Partner is thinking and he now knows that probably ♦AK are missing and even 5♠ might be in danger.

2. Could West have known that leading ♦A could be favourable? YES. May be, partner does not lead ♦ against 6♠!

It is a case of a Split score:

        NS (A)   5♠-1 = –100 (NS stop in 5♠ and EW lead ♦)

        EW (B)   4♠+3 = –710 (N passes and the lead is other then ♦)

        Other room: NS (B) 4♠= +620

        A: –720 => –12 imp

        B: –90 => –3 imp

Of course we can weight our Split score.

Now imagine that West leads ♦A and opens the screen. In this case it is easy to apply Law 24 (not important for the bidding; East passes naturally) but now North could demand 6♠ knowing that he can forbid the lead in ♦.

3

	♠ K Q J 9 6 2	Board 2
	♥ 9 7 3	E/NS
	♦ J	
	♣ A J 2	

♠ 4 3	N	♠ A 10
♥ K 8 5		♥ A Q J 6 4 2
♦ A 10 6 4 3	O E	♦ K Q
♣ 7 6 5	S	♣ Q 9 8

	♠ 8 7 5
	♥ 10
	♦ 9 8 7 5 2
	♣ K 10 4 3

W	N	E	S
		1♥	P
2♥	2♠	X	3♠
4♥	4♠	P	

North and East pick up their bidding cards and push back the tray. South and West believe N/E have passed out and pick up their bidding cards!!!

North is ready to play 4♠ while West is ready partner to play 4♥.

The bidding has not finished yet and might continue:

   A) South and West pass; final contract 4♠ by North

   B) West bids 5♥; final contract 5♥ by East

The Solutions we are giving seem reasonable but ARE THEY IN THE LAW?

1st case: South leads ♠8, West spreads the dummy and <u>opens</u> the screen. East has not led.

South and West are innocent. TD permits to withdraw the face up cards which are U.I. for both sides.

   1st possibility (A):   Final contract 4♠. East leads. Both sides being offenders, TD will assign a split-weighted score. North will find ♣Q 4 times out of 6. Against EW the declarer will make 10 tricks 6 time out of 10.

   2nd possibility (B):   Final Contract 5♥. NS +100.

2nd case: South leads ♠8, West spreads the dummy and <u>South</u> opens the screen. East has not led.

The same as in case 1. Here it does not matter <u>who opens the screen</u>.

3rd case: South leads ♠8, West spreads the dummy and <u>opens</u> the screen. East has led face down.

The same as in case 1. The other face down lead is immaterial.

4th case: South leads ♠8, West spreads the dummy and South <u>opens</u> the screen. East has led face down.

The same as in case 1. The other face down lead is immaterial.

5th case: South leads ♠8, West spreads the dummy and <u>opens</u> the screen. East has led ♥A.

This is the more difficult case. Do we apply Law 24 against East?

Don't forget that both (North and East) are offenders. We do not like to apply Law 24, but … do you?

6th case: South leads ♠8, West spreads the dummy and <u>South opens</u> the screen. East has led ♥A.

The same as in case 5.

7th case: East leads ♥A and <u>opens</u> the screen. South has not led.

This seems a typical Law 24 case. West has to pass one round. Final contract 4♠, opening lead ♥A.

8th case: East leads ♥A and <u>opens</u> the screen. South has led face down.

The same as in case 7.

9th case: East leads ♥A and <u>opens</u> the screen. South has led ♠8.

The same as in case 7. ♠8 will be withdrawn and is U.I. for both sides.

10th case: East leads ♥A and <u>North opens</u> the screen. South has not led.

Because North has opened the screen we suggest not to apply Law 24 as in case 1.

11th case: East leads ♥A and <u>North opens</u> the screen. South has led face down.

The same as in case 10.

12th case: East leads ♥A and <u>North opens</u> the screen. South has led ♠8.

The same as in case 10.

13th case: While South leads face down and West is spreading the dummy, East leads and opens the screen.

Back to case 7 and 8. Law 24 applies.

A general approach could be: When the bidding has not finished and there is a lead out of turn, we apply Law 24 only when it is the same (offending) player who opens the screen. In all the other cases the player withdraws the card which is U.I. for both sides.