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LEAD OUT OF TURN WITH SCREEN

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Opening lead out of turn

when the screens are in use

by

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This lecture has been made working together with my Italian colleague Carlo Galardini.

My friend Carlo is a top T.D. and a top technician that I sometimes consult when I meet a difficult case.

He has recently made a big and clever work analyzing how to apply the bridge laws in many different cases. His work seems very useful in teaching T.D. of any level.

We tried to cover all the possible situations of opening lead out of turn when the screen are in use.

Especially we focalized our attention in cases that seems not to be covered by the actual regulations i.e. opening lead out of turn faced down which is faced when the opponent open the screen or a lead when the bid has not finished but 1 side of the screen acts as the bid has finished.

When we have 2 sides in fault our general approach is to apply, when it is possible, the Law 47E1 permitting to retract the card and considering this an unauthorized information for both lines.

We tried to cover any possible case and give our solution but I will be happy if your fantasy will find a new one and/or you will suggest a different solution that we can discuss.

The idea is finally to agree a common approach in all different cases.

(The examples are given using Power Point; the YELLOW SLIDE shows the Law or the Rule, the WHITE SLIDE shows the Application and the BLUE SLIDE a possible change).

1
Dealer North

Bidding			
S	W	N	E
		1♠	P
1♠	P	1♠	P
3♠	P	4♣	P
4♠	P	4♥	P
4NT	P	5♠	P

North is declarer in 6♠

West leads out of turn

South opens the screen

East has not led

Rules affirm:

- The screenmate should attempt to prevent an opening lead out of turn. Any opening lead out of turn shall be withdrawn without other rectification if the screen has not been opened.
- Otherwise:
 1. When the screen has been opened through no fault of the declaring side (and the other defender has not led face up) Law 54 applies.
 2. When the declaring side has opened the screen the lead is accepted. The presumed declarer becomes the actual declarer. Law 23 may apply.
 3. When two opening leads are faced by the defending side the incorrect lead is a major penalty card.

- Then: lead ♣3. South spreads his hand. North will play the second card to this trick (Law 54B1).
- North makes 12 tricks in ♠.
- T.D. has to judge whether to apply Law 23.
- Could South have known that accepting the lead could be favourable? YES. His slam is border line and a passive lead gives the possibility to establish the diamonds.
- Has he taken advantage from his irregularity? YES
- What is the probable result without the infraction? After the "normal" lead in hearts: 6♠-1.
- It is a case of split score (both sides are at fault).
- For NS: 6♠-1 (-100) For EW: 6♠ made (-1430)
- T.D. could also assign a weighted split score (for instance when the lead in hearts is not so "normal").

- It is the more simple case but why not to apply Law 47E1 (to open the screen is a kind of mistaken information)?
- Both sides are offending.
- T.D. permits to withdraw the card and the information is unauthorized for both sides.

2

Dealer North

Bidding			
S	W	N	E
		P	P
1♠	P	1♠	P
3♠	P	4♣	P
4♠	P	4♥	P
4NT	P	5♠	P
6♠	P	P	P

South opens the screen

North is declarer in 6♠

West leads out of turn

South opens the screen

East has led face down

- As in case 1. The face down regular opening lead is withdrawn (Law 54).
- Opening lead out of turn is accepted (possibly Law 23).

- To apply Law 54 is certainly reasonable playing without screen but when BOTH SIDES are offending, why not face up the regular lead?
- The wrong lead will be withdrawn and considered unauthorized information for both sides.
- The general idea is that to restore a NORMAL situation is usually better.

3

Dealer North

Bidding			
S	W	N	E
		P	P
1♠	P	1♠	P
3♠	P	4♣	P
4♠	P	4♥	P
4NT	P	5♠	P
6♠	P	P	P

South opens the screen

North is declarer in 6♠

West leads out of turn

South opens the screen

East has led face up

- Regular lead is maintained.
- Lead out of turn is a major penalty card.

- Both sides are offending.
- Why not permit the withdrawal of the lead out of turn and let it be U.I. for both sides?

4
Dealer North

Bidding			
S	W	N	E
1♠	P	1♠	P
3♠	P	4♠	P
4♠	P	4♥	P
4NT	P	5♠	P
6♠	P	P	P

West opens the screen

North is declarer in 6♠

West leads out of turn and opens the screen

East has led face up

- Regular lead stays and the lead out of turn is a major penalty card.

- Strange. The rules treat the lead out of turn in the same way whether only one side is responsible (here) or both sides are (previous case).

5

Dealer North

Bidding			
S	W	N	E
		P	P
1♠	P	1♣	P
3♠	P	4♣	P
4♠	P	4♥	P
4NT	P	5♣	P
6♣	P	P	P

North is declarer in 6♣

West leads out of turn and opens the screen

East has not led

- Law 54 applies.
- In this case T.D. applies the Law as if screens were not in use.

6

Dealer North

Bidding			
S	W	N	E
		P	P
1♠	P	1♣	P
3♠	P	4♣	P
4♠	P	4♥	P
4NT	P	5♣	P
6♣	P	P	P

North is declarer in 6♣

West leads out of turn and opens the screen

East has led face down

- Law 54: When an opening lead out of turn is faced and offender's partner leads face down, the director requires the face down lead to be retracted. Also: ...

- Apply Law 54.

- I don't like this Law without and especially WITH the screen.
- The will has to be, when possible, to let play the contract to the player who has the right to do it.

AND MORE ...

- Law 54 affirms the face down lead has to be retracted which means that, if declarer refuses the wrong opening lead and lets the lead free to the regular leader (Law 50D2b) that man is entitled to change the card he led face down before.
- Why not, in this case, to oblige the regular leader to play the same card he led before?

I confess !!!!

- In this specific situation I tell the regular leader : "If you play the same card you led before, I (T.D.) will be sure that, for the opening lead, you have not used any U.I." (Law 50E2 and 3)

7

Dealer North

Bidding			
S	W	N	E
1♠	P	1♠	P
3♠	P	4♠	P
4♠	P	4♥	P
4NT	P	5♠	P
6♠	P	P	P

North is declarer in 6♠

West leads out of turn and looks at South who nods. Afterwards West opens the screen

East has not led

- Law 47E1: A lead out of turn (or a played card) may be retracted without further rectification if the player was mistakenly informed by an opponent that it was his turn to lead or play.

- Rules seems not to cover this situation.
- What to do?
 - ♠3 becomes a major penalty card and apply Law 54?

NOOOOOOoOoOo...

- It seems logical to apply Law 47E1.
- ♠3 is retracted and – both sides being offenders – is an U.I. for both sides.

8

Dealer North

Bidding				
S	W	N	E	
		1♠		P
		3♠		P
		4♠		P
		4NT		P
		6♠		P
				P

South opens the screen

North is declarer in 6♠

West leads out of turn and looks at South who nods. Afterwards South opens the screen

East has not led

- Declarer's side opened the screen.
- Lead has been accepted.
- Law 23 could be applied.

- Why not a simple application of Law 47E1?

9
Dealer North

Bidding				
S	W	N	E	
1♠		1♠		P
3♠	P	4♠		P
4♠	P	4♥		P
4NT	P	5♠		P
6♠	P	P		P

West opens the screen

North is declarer in 6♠

West leads out of turn and looks at South who nods. Afterwards West opens the screen

East has led face down

- What to do?
- Not covered by the rules?
♣3 major penalty card and apply 54?
- We don't like it.

- It seems logical to act as in case 7, so ...
- Apply Law 47E1.
- ♣3 is retracted and – both sides being offenders – is an U.I. for both sides.

10

Dealer North

Bidding			
S	W	N	E
		1♣	P
1♠	P		P
3♠	P	4♣	P
4♠	P	4♥	P
4NT	P	5♠	P
6♠	P	P	P

North is declarer in 6♠

West leads out of turn and looks at South who nods. Afterwards West opens the screen

East has led face up

- The regular lead is the good one
- What to do with ♣3?

- It seems logical to act as in case 7, so ...
- Apply Law 47E1.
- ♣3 is retracted and – both sides being offenders – is an U.I. for both sides.

11
Dealer North

Bidding			
S	W	N	E
		1♠	P
		3♠	P
		4♠	P
		4NT	P
		6♠	P

North is declarer in 6 ♠

West leads out of turn asking: "Is it my lead?". South does not reply and West opens the screen

East has not led

- Doubtfull.
- If South admits he heard and did not reply, we believe that SILENCE means YES. So, as in case 7 ...
- Rules seem not to cover this situation.
- What to do?
 - ♣3 major penalty card and apply Law 54? NOOOOO
- We suggest: Law 47E1.
 - ♣3 is retracted and – both sides being offenders – is an U.I. for both sides.
- If South does not admit:
 - ♣3 major penalty card and apply Law 54.

12
Dealer North

Bidding			
S	W	N	E
		1♠	P
		3♠	P
		4♠	P
		4NT	P
		6♠	P

North is declarer in 6 ♠

West leads out of turn asking: "Is it my lead?". South does not reply and West opens the screen

East has led face down

- If South admits he heard and did not reply, we believe that SILENCE means YES. So, as in case 9.
- Rules seem not to cover this situation.
- What to do?
 - ♣3 major penalty card and apply Law 54? NOOOOO
- We suggest: Law 47E1
 - ♣3 is retracted and – both sides being offenders – is an U.I. for both sides.
- If South does not admit:
- As in case 6, but look at the comments in blue.
 - ♣3 major penalty card and apply Law 54.

13
Dealer North

Bidding			
S	W	N	E
		1♠	P
		3♠	P
		4♠	P
		4NT	P
		6♠	P

North is declarer in 6♠

West leads out of turn asking: "Is it my lead?". South does not reply and West opens the screen

East has led face up

- If South admits he heard and did not reply, we believe that SILENCE means YES. So, as in case 10 ...
- Rules seem not to cover this situation.
- What to do?
 - ♣3 major penalty card and apply Law 54? NOOOOO
- We suggest: Law 47E1
 - ♣3 is retracted and – both sides being offenders – is an U.I. for both sides.
- If South does not admit:
 - ♣3 major penalty card and apply Law 54.

14
Dealer North

Bidding			
S	W	N	E
		1♠	P
		3♠	P
		4♠	P
		4NT	P
		6♠	P

Contract: 6♠ by North

West leads out of turn face down

South opens the screen and West faces the card

East has not led

- Rules affirm the lead has been accepted ... or NO?
- To discuss ...
- As you can imagine, we have a lot of liking to apply Law 47E1: To open the screen on a lead face down is a mistaken information.

15

Dealer North

Bidding			
S	W	N	E
		P	P
1♠	P	1♠	P
3♠	P	4♣	P
4♠	P	4♥	P
4NT	P	5♠	P
6♠	P	P	P

Contract: 6♠ by North

West leads out of turn face down

South opens the screen and West faces the card

East has led face down

16

Dealer North

Bidding			
S	W	N	E
		P	P
1♠	P	1♠	P
3♠	P	4♣	P
4♠	P	4♥	P
4NT	P	5♠	P
6♠	P	P	P

Contract: 6♠ by North

West leads out of turn face down

South opens the screen and West faces the card

East has led face up

- Strange situation (the second happened).
- What to do?
- To discuss but ... you know our liking.

- FINAL COMMENT:**
- We believe that the best is always to have a normal situation at the table, that means, when it is possible, the regular leader has to lead.
 - Remember that in many cases part of the responsibility is in charge of the screenmate of the player who made the lead out of turn.
 - Our suggestion is to apply – when it is possible and not against the Law – the Law 47E1.
 - It is my opinion that in all situations where you decide to apply Law 47E1 a regular lead face down stays !!!