



EUROPEAN BRIDGE LEAGUE

11th EBL Tournament Directors Course
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Antalya – Turkey

SIMULATIONS AT THE TABLE

S 1)

Board 6, Dealer East, EW vulnerable

Declarer plays 4♠ and his last three cards are ♠1083. He knows that his RHO has also three trumps left, the J being one of them (no other trumps in play).

- a) RHO has to lead. Declarer concedes two tricks without an explanation. Then he discovers that RHO has ♠J62 and wants another trick. He calls the TD.
- b) Declarer has to lead and the same happens, he concedes two tricks. He calls the TD and tells that playing the ♠3 is crazy. None of the defenders mentions how to play for two tricks.
- c) RHO has ♠J64 and won the last trick. He agrees with declarer's claim of two tricks. Playing the next board he discovers that declarer had ♠1083 and wants an extra trick. He thought the lowest trump in declarer's hand to be higher than his 4, he tells the TD.

- a) Law 71B. Declarer gets a trick back if he only loses one with any normal play. The TD finds out that declarer always wins two tricks.
- b) It is the job of the TD to find out that the defenders can win two tricks all the time.
- c) This time we have to use Law 69B2, it is the agreeing side that wants an extra trick. The decision probably depends on the level of play. If RHO is a good player it is reasonable to believe his reason to agree, allowing him the second trick. But if the TD considers the play of the jack in trick 11 quite possible the claim stands.

S 2)

W	N	E	S
	1♦	pass	1♥

Now West says: ‘you cannot do so’ and South immediately says ‘sorry’ and puts the 1♥ bidding card on the 1♦ card.

- a) South will tell that he pulled the wrong card and had planned to bid 1♥.
- b) South after a while admits that he did not see partner’s opening.

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

- a) This is the exception on the general approach not to look into the hand of a player. In this situation it is unlikely that the TD creates UI when giving his decision to allow or not a change of call. It is best to take the player from the table here; the cards do not help the TD to take the decision. Both scenarios are possible. And the TD should not start showing his doubt, because then he creates UI, suggesting the other players the actual hand. Since this mechanical error happens regularly it is reasonable to allow the change. Law 25A.
- b) Bravo for this player admitting his fault. We are in Law 27C. West should be offered to accept the 1♦. If not it is removed and creates UI for partner. 1♥ becomes the legal call. It is not comparable, nor fits Law 27B1a, so partner has to pass throughout the auction and Law 26 might apply if NS become defenders.

S 3)

Board 17, Dealer North, none vulnerable
North sees

♠	A 7 5
♥	---
♦	A Q 10 9 5 3 2
♣	8 6 4

and opens 1♦. Then he looks at his cards once more and discovers his holding to be

♠	A 7 5
♥	5 3 2
♦	A Q 10 9
♣	8 6 4

which he does not consider to have opening values, so he replaces his 1♦ for a pass.
TD!

a) East does not accept the pass. The auction develops like:

W	N	E	S
	1♦	1NT	pass
3NT	All pass		

b) East does accept the pass and after that the same calls are made.

c) East is dealer and the same happens. If the TD does not notice it himself, East will tell him that North was not supposed to open the auction.

Law 25B

- a) pass withdrawn and UI. Declarer may forbid the lead in any suit but diamonds.
- b) 1♦ is withdrawn and East may forbid the lead in any suit.
- c) Dealing with multiple infractions is complicated and in many cases not covered by the laws. But they happen and need to be solved. Here it works when the TD offers East to accept one of the calls made: 1♦ or pass, telling that in that case the other is withdrawn and creates UI for South and possibly a lead penalty. If not, both calls are withdrawn with the same consequences. Law 31B applies. East opens the auction and South's call is restricted by UI. It seems reasonable to wait with further explanations till North gets his legal turn to call.

S 4)

		♠ Q 8 2	Board 20 W / all
		♥ Q	
		♦ K 10 8 7 6 4 3	
		♣ A Q	
♠	K 3	N W E S	♠ 6 4
♥	K J 8 5 2		♥ 7 6 4 3
♦	---		♦ Q 9 2
♣	J 10 8 6 4 2		♣ K 7 5 3
		♠ A J 10 9 7 5	
		♥ A 10 9	
		♦ A J 5	
		♣ 9	

South plays 6♠.

West leads ♥5 to the Queen. Declarer loses the spade finesse to the King and West plays ♣J to the Ace. Declarer ruffs ♣Q in hand, ruffs ♥10 in dummy and plays a spade to the Ace. West discards ♣2. Declarer plays one more spade and both defenders discard clubs.

- a) Declarer says: ‘something is wrong’. West notices his revoke and replaces his first club discard with the remaining spade. Declarer draws all spades and in the 3 card ending decides to play ♦A. One down. Now he calls TD asking for one trick penalty.
- b) This time West notices his revoke and asks declarer if he can correct it. Declarer nods, dummy looks annoyed but doesn’t protest. Similarly to a) West replaces his revoke, declarer loses the contract and calls the TD after the board.

- a) 12 tricks. Declarer’s intention was not to waive a rectification (Law 10B); he also didn’t gain from not calling TD at the right moment (Law 11A).
- b) 11 tricks. This time the players clearly rejected asking for a rectification and the TD may allow that (Law 10B). But he also may decide not to allow it and to apply Law 11, upholding the result for NS (11 tricks) and having the slam made for EW. Even the decision to award 12 tricks to both sides is possible.

S 5)

Board 7, Dealer South, all vulnerable

W	N	E	S
			1♠
	1♠		

Oops ... TD!

It appears that North not only bid OOT but also made an unintended call, he wanted to bid 1NT (mispull).

- a) He tells the TD away from the table.
- b) He tells this at the table. East does not accept 1NT OOT.

The problem is: Two irregularities combined.

- a) Admiration for the TD who tells the table that the 1♠-bid was completely unintended, so can be ignored and tells West that it is his turn to call. But to be honest, it looks like this unintended call carries the information that North wanted to make a bid, which does create UI. That brings us in ...
- b) The TD allows North to show the intended call: 1NT, and offers East the possibility to accept this bid. It is not clear what this 1NT means: is it an opening or an answer? North cannot be asked to disclose it. If East does not accept it and West passes, North repeats 1NT and the auction continues normally. If West does not pass, the TD has to decide whether North's legal call is comparable.

S 6)

	♠ J 7	Board 24
	♥ A J 8 7 5 3	W / none
	♦ Q 7 4	
	♣ 8 3	
♠ Q 9 3	N	♠ K 8 4 2
♥ 4 2	W E	♥ K Q 10 6
♦ A J 6		♦ K 9 5
♣ A J 10 7 2	S	♣ 9 4
	♠ A 10 6 5	
	♥ 9	
	♦ 10 8 3 2	
	♣ K Q 6 5	

W	N	E	S
1♣	pass	1♥	

- a) Now North puts down the 2♥ bid and South screams 'what are you doing?' The TD is called. North will tell that he thought to put down the stop card and did only see his pass when bidding 2♥, not noticing the 1♥-bid either.
- b) The same and now East doubles, South and West pass and North calls the TD once more asking him whether EW may change their system during the auction. East, after a while, might say that his double is supposed to be negative.
- c) The same but now North tells that he prefers to pass instead of bidding 2♥.

- a) There is no reason not to believe North, still being busy in making his call. Instruct East to withdraw his 1♥ bid and tell NS that the information arising from this withdrawn call is unauthorized.
- b) Law 40B2iv deals with this issue and then the wording "prior agreement" is important. East finds this call just at this moment, which of course is allowed.
- c) The TD tells him that he should complete the call he started and explains that such pass is based on the unauthorized information, which is not permitted.

S 7)

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

North is declarer in 4♥, got the lead of ♦J and took trick 2 with the ace, drew the trumps ...

- a) and played ♠K and finessed the ♠Q; then ♠A, and a spade ruffed on which East played ♣6 and ♦2 simultaneously, only the ♣6 being visible. Declarer plays the last diamond from dummy, West plays the Q, ♦9 in North and East plays ♣10. South looks into the remaining cards in East, notices that East is a card short and tells so. TD!
- b) East revoking in trick 5, playing a spade instead. Play continues as in a) and East ruffs ♠A. South looks in East's cards and tells that he revoked earlier. TD!

By looking in East's cards dummy has lost his rights (Law 43A2c). Law 43B3 applies which tells that the irregularity is not rectified at that moment.

- a) It is still bridge when a player has a card less to play (see Laws 14 and 67). So play continues and where the ♦2 is going is not of any interest. There could arise a problem though: when East will win trick 12 we are stuck. So the TD finds ♦2 which is added to the hand. There might have been a revoke but no penalty tricks will be assessed.
- b) Nothing done during the play (the revoke has become established anyway). After the play the undeserved trick East won by ruffing is taken away but not given to NS.

S 8)

Board 23, Dealer South, all vulnerable

A defender played two cards in a trick not discovered till three tricks before the end. TD is called. Clubs are trumps. Declarer had led ♠A in that trick. The players are not able to tell which card was visible.

It appears that the defender at fault played:

- a) ♥8 and ♠8
- b) ♥8 and ♣8
- c) ♥8 and ♦8

What is the TD ruling in each of these 3 cases?

In all cases Law 67B2 applies.

- a) It looks reasonable to decide that the ♠8 was played, not creating a revoke. The TD needs to find out whether the offender should have played the ♥8 earlier.
- b) The TD should look at the next trick played. If the offender did not lead to that trick it is reasonable to assume that he played the ♥8. Also here the possibility of a revoke has to be looked at.
- c) What is the highest ranked card, is hearts higher than diamonds? No, the laws do not cover this situation. But if the TD uses it to decide which card to choose as played that is as good as a toss.

S 9)

Board 21, Dealer North, NS vulnerable

Declarer takes first trick in dummy, plays a club to the 10 and takes the trick. All players close the trick but declarer leaves his card faced up.

- a) Declarer puts his cards face down on the table and looks into opponents' convention card. After a minute he picks up his hand. His LHO looks at him and seeing ♣10 on the table follows suit. TD!
- b) Declarer starts thinking. After 1 minute dummy says 'are you sleeping?' LHO replies 'sorry' and "follows" with a club. Dummy addressed his comment to declarer, but LHO thought that they had been waiting for him. They discover the irregularity. TD!
- c) Similar to a). Declarer examines the convention card but when he picks up his cards he collects also ♣10. He leads to the next trick with ♣10. LHO follows. Dummy notices that ♣10 was already played. TD!

- a) It would be nice if declarer admits he contributed to this problem. The TD might try to let him do so. Allow both cards to be withdrawn, LHO's one creating UI for declarer and partner (he is not completely innocent).
- b) The same
- c) Go to the last sentence of Law 67B3. Declarer adds the card to the quitted trick, LHO picks his card up and it creates UI for declarer, not for his partner. A player is not obliged to remember a card played before.

S 10)

		♠ A K J 7	Board 16 W / EW
		♥ Q 9 3	
		♦ A K 8 5	
		♣ Q 2	
♠	Q 9 6 3	N W E S	♠ 8 4 2
♥	A K 7 4		♥ J 5
♦	9 4		♦ J 10 6 3
♣	10 8 3		♣ K 9 6 5
		♠ 10 5	
		♥ 10 8 6 2	
		♦ Q 7 2	
		♣ A J 7 4	

W	N	E	S
pass	1♣	pass	1♥
pass	2♠	pass	3NT
All pass			

West starts with ♠3 for the 10; ♠5 to the J and in trick 3 ♦A. Now declarer calls for a small diamond but dummy plays the ♦K, East plays ♦10. South plays the Q and thinking he won the trick plays ♦7 and then looks surprised not seeing the ♦K anymore.

- a) Before he can say something West plays ♠9. South now calls the TD!
- b) West smiles, says 'I know the laws' and then plays ♠9.

Law 45D

- a) Dummy has played a wrong card and both sides have played in the next trick. No change of cards anymore, this costs declarer a trick.
- b) With this remark by West he draws attention to the irregularity. He should have called for the TD instead. His ♠9 becomes a major PC and the previous trick is restored. Withdrawn cards by defenders become UI for the declarer.

S 11)

	♠	J 10 8		Board 18
	♥	8 6 5		E / NS
	♦	---		
	♣	---		
♠	Q 9		N	♠ 6 4 3
♥	J 10	W	E	♥ ---
♦	A 8			♦ Q 10
♣	---		S	♣ 8
	♠	---		
	♥	K Q 7		
	♦	K 7		
	♣	Q		

South is playing 4♥ and has lost 3 tricks.
 The lead is in dummy and there is no way he can make all the tricks.
 But, South leads ♦7 from his hand and ...

- a) West plays ♦8. A second later East calls ‘TD! The lead was in dummy’.
 TD: ‘West accepted LOOT (Law 53A). Continue playing’.
 South ruffs ♦ in dummy, ♥5 to ♥Q in hand, ruffs ♦K in dummy, ruffs a ♠ with ♥7 in hand, draws remaining trump and ♣Q is high. 4♥ made.
- b) West plays ♦8 and at the same moment East says ‘wrong hand’.
- c) TD not called when ♦7 is played, but East calls the TD after the hand is played and 4♥ is made.

- a) Tricky, but this is a situation where the TD should realise that this play from declarer could work quite well and that he could have been aware, so Law 72C. Declarer gained an advantage, so the TD awards NS an adjusted score based on the contract being one off. But he cannot ignore the acceptance of the wrong lead by the defending side; it keeps the table result.
- b) Here Law 55A leads to the right decision. Defenders choose differently so LHO wins this battle. Ruling the same as in a).
- c) No difference.

S 12)

Board 10, Dealer East, all vulnerable

North gives an explanation and then South is asked what his partner's call thereafter means.

- a) South walks away from the table and tells the TD that his partner gave a wrong explanation. If he now tells the partnership agreement his partner will understand his mistake. What to do?
- b) South walks away from the table and tells the TD that he is not sure about the agreements, he thought to play something different, but that might be wrong. What to do now?

- a) The TD has to inform South that the laws tell the players to explain the partnership agreements without any exception. If this makes partner aware of his own mistake that gives him UI, he should be deaf for partner's explanations.
- b) The TD tells South that he is not able to solve this problem at this moment. If South is not sure he can tell his opponents. The best way to do so is by asking North to leave the table. This restricts the UI being given. There is no need for South to tell the opponents which of the possible agreements he will use to decide which call to make.

S 13)

Board 11, Dealer South, none vulnerable
Teams

When board 11 is put on the table to start playing the top card in East is face up: ♠A. East immediately takes it out the pocket to turn it face down but then also the ♠K becomes visible. Enough reason to call the TD. In the meantime South has taken his cards and tells that he is missing some. It appears that ♠A and K belong to South.

If the TD wants them to play the board, adjusting later if necessary, the players object, saying that it is impossible to play such a board.

- a) The board is played in 6 matches: three times in 6♥ and 8 times in 4 or 5♥. In this match the other table bid and made the slam.
- b) The boards are shuffled at the table, only one comparison. The other table has played 6♥ just made.

The TD should try to have the board being played but has the authority to decide to apply Law 16D2d. If the board is played he still may decide to award an adjusted score later (D2c). It is reasonable to give some extra weight for bidding slam to the side deprived from bidding it.

- a) The expectation is 3 times a wash and 8 times 11 imps leading to a score of 8 imps for the team that bid slam.
- b) No comparison and a poll gives an indication, for example that bidding slam is by far not obvious. The TD uses this information to decide the result.

S 14)

		♠ A K Q 5	Board 12 W / NS
		♥ A 9 7	
		♦ 8 4 2	
		♣ K 10 6	
♠	10 7	N W E S	♠ J 9 4
♥	10 4 3 2		♥ K Q J 5
♦	A K Q 9 7 6		♦ 10 5
♣	9		♣ J 7 5 2
		♠ 8 6 3 2	
		♥ 8 6	
		♦ J 3	
		♣ A Q 8 4 3	

W	N	E	S
1♦	X	1NT	2♣
2♦	2♠	pass	3♠
4♦	... pass	pass	4♠
pass	pass	X	pass
5♦	X	All pass	

Result: -2

North hesitated before his first pass and West calls the TD challenging the 4♠ bid by South. South tells that his partner showed a strong hand and that his 3♠ bid was game forcing. South is a strong player and his partner is a client.

Normally the 2♠-bid shows a strong hand with long spades and that is what South expects. So his statement sounds plausible. But please make it a poll, with 3♠, North's first pass and 4♠ under inquiry.

S 15)

	♠ J 8 7 4	Board 15 S / NS
	♥ 10 7 5	
	♦ 10 9 5 3 2	
	♣ 3	
♠ 6 5	N W E S	♠ 3 2
♥ A K 4		♥ Q J 9 8 6 3 2
♦ Q 7 6 4		♦ A K
♣ A K Q J		♣ 9 5
	♠ A K Q 10 9	
	♥ ---	
	♦ J 8	
	♣ 10 8 7 6 4 2	

W	N	E	S
			1♣
1NT	pass	2♦	2♠
3♥	3♠	4♦	pass
4♥	pass	5♥	pass
6♥	All pass		

North had asked about the bidding. West explained 4♦ as suit and 5♥ asking for a top honour in hearts. North then led the ♣3. Seeing dummy he doubts both explanations he says and with the right answers he might have led a spade. The explanations given suggest a spade stopper in East he also says. When the TD asks EW about the bidding it appears that the given answers reflect more assumptions than partnership agreements.

The answers given are questionable and cause a misexplanation. So the question arises what North would have led had he been told that East just showed some interest in slam. The poll showed a unanimous lead of the ♣3. No damage.

S 16)

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

W	N	E	S
		2♦	2♠
3♦	4♠	... pass	pass
5♦	5♠	pass	pass
X	All pass		

East hesitated before his pass on 4♠. The TD is called after the play in which declarer goes one off. North tells him about the hesitation and challenges the 5♦-bid. West wants to know whether the 5♠-bid is acceptable, it seems gambling.

It is unlikely that the hesitation suggests anything else than considering 5♦, so there is UI. A poll will be needed, with the 5♦ and the 5♠ bid (gambling?) under investigation.

S 17)

Board 5, Dealer North, NS vulnerable
Screens in use.

W	N	E	S
	1♥	2♥	X

South waited some seconds before his double and only thereafter West alerted and explained the 2♥-bid as showing spades and clubs. Now South called the director and wants to change his call. The TD asks him what he thought 2♥ to mean.

South has ♠K873 ♥Q942 ♦AQ63 ♣7

- a) South says: natural. Does the TD allow him?
- b) South says: spades and a minor. If the TD now asks what the difference is, South tells that it does not matter, after having received misinformation (no alert) he should be allowed to change his call.
- c) South tells that with two known suits the double promises strength in both of them, with only spades known the double shows strength in that suit and a minor. He did not expect East showing spades and clubs.

Law 21B. The TD only allows such change if he is convinced that the player might have made a different call with the right information given. But he should not examine the cards at that moment, because his decision then creates UI. So he postpones it, explains the conditions and let the player choose. This should be discussed away from the table.

- a) No, South knows that the 2♥ bid is not natural and the TD should warn him.
- b) South is wrong and the TD does not allow the change.
- c) Though South could have asked, his wish to describe his hand correctly with the given information sounds reasonable. He may change his call.

S 18)

	♠ A	Board 14	
	♥ J 4	E / none	
	♦ A K Q J 7 5		
	♣ A 9 7 3		
♠ K 9 7 6 5	N	♠ Q J 4 3 2	
♥ 9 3	W	♥ A K 8 5	
♦ 8 3	E	♦ 6 2	
♣ K Q J 10	S	♣ 6 4	
	♠ 10 8		
	♥ Q 10 7 6 2		
	♦ 10 9 4		
	♣ 8 5 2		

W	N	E	S
		1♠	pass
3♠	3NT	4♠	pass
pass	5♦	pass	

The tray is pushed to SW.

It comes back to NE without bidding cards and, supposing South and West have both passed East leads ♥A and North opens the screen. The SW-side protests and they make it clear that on their side of the screen 5♦ had not been seen.

TD!

The auction is not closed, though SW behaved clumsily. Had North passed, the tray would have been returned empty on the NE side. Wake up please.

A card (honour) shown (led) during the auction. West has to pass once (Law 24B), which is a severe penalty in this case. What about UI created by seeing this ace? Law 24 speaks about a non-offending side, which is not present at this table. It is not relevant here, but UI for both sides seems the right decision. And East has to lead the ♥A in trick one, it becoming a PC.

S 19)

Board 13, Dealer North, all vulnerable
Screens in use

East is declarer. North asks East: 'Is it my lead?' East says: 'Yes', and North leads face up. At this moment the screen is opened by the other side and ...

- a) a face up lead and the dummy are on the table.
- b) now half of declarer's cards are also revealed.

The laws work really well for this infraction, being the 'yes' from declarer.

- a) North picks his card up (Law 47E1) which is UI for East.
- b) North and East take their cards back.

S 20)

Board 19, Dealer South, EW vulnerable
Screens in use

- a) A board is placed on the tray and players start taking their cards with open aperture. While South is taking his cards from the board, ♥10 flips and becomes visible. North didn't take his cards yet.
- b) As in a) but North has already taken his cards, however, he hasn't see them yet.
- c) The aperture is closed, all players take their cards. West opens the screen again to comment on a previous board to his partner. With open screen East passes and South drops ♥10.

- a) Both sides are at fault. South takes the card back. Unauthorized information for the three other players (not Laws 24 & L16).
- b) The auction period has started (Law 17A), but the auction not yet. Law 24 refers to auction. So see a)
- c) Law 24 says "because of a player's own error" a card becomes visible to his partner. Is it player's own error? Yes, there is no causal relation between the two irregularities. Apply Law 24B.

S 21)

		♠ Q J 9 2	Board 1 N / none
		♥ A 10 8 5 4	
		♦ 6	
		♣ K 5 4	
♠ 5 4 3		N	♠ 8 6
♥ Q J 6 3 2		W	♥ K 7
♦ J		E	♦ K Q 8 7 4 3
♣ A J 3 2		S	♣ 9 7 6
		♠ A K 10 7	
		♥ 9	
		♦ A 10 9 5 2	
		♣ Q 10 8	

W	N	E	S
	pass	2♦	pass
pass	...		

- a) North takes some seconds now but before he can make a call South leads the ♥9 faced up.
- b) The same happens, but this time ♠Q (North) and ♣2 (West) are exchanged.

- a) This is a premature lead during the auction. Law 24 tells that North has to pass once in a situation where he apparently considered a different action. Would he not have passed? A poll will tell. Also for the following calls. The TD might consider to apply Law 72C, though South would have preferred a double over the enforced pass, so he is not that happy. If a poll shows that North doubles regularly the LOOT creates no damage.
- b) A poll again. With a low frequency of double and pass (so a majority for 2♥) EW are damaged. The TD needs to do more to decide the final contract. This is not a situation where the criteria for a logical alternative should be used (no UI). The score has to be adjusted if EW may be expected to receive a better score without the enforced pass.

S 22)

		♠ A 9 7 5	Board 8
		♥ 9 7 3	W / none
		♦ A K Q	
		♣ Q 8 5	
♠	Q J 10 3	N	♠ 8 6
♥	5	W E	♥ Q J 10 6 4
♦	J 10 6 3	S	♦ 9 4
♣	6 4 3 2		♣ A K J 9
		♠ K 4 2	
		♥ A K 8 2	
		♦ 8 7 5 2	
		♣ 10 7	

W	N	E	S
pass	1NT	2♥	3NT
All pass			

2♥ is alerted and explained as: ‘both majors’.

- a) After the face down lead out of turn by West East tells that the 2♥ bid shows ♥ and a minor. South calls the TD and tells him that he would have doubled in that case. TD!
- b) Normal lead, no premature explanation. After play (down 2) NS question the explanation, East not having spades. They call the TD and South tells that he would have doubled instead of bidding 3NT.

- a) A peculiar case, it looks like there are three infractions here. Wrong lead, wrong explanation and a premature correction. The first is easy to solve, for the second the question arises whether the premature correction should be ignored. Not for West for sure, it creates UI. Law 21B talks about misinformation, not mentioning the way it is given. But it is too late to apply this law, North has passed after 3NT. The TD needs a poll to decide whether the wrong information by West (if he decides it is) makes a difference for South’s call. If so it looks like 3NT is not making and then the adjusted score should be based on 2♠X minus 2 for EW.
- b) There is an important difference between South’s statements in a) and b). Knowing that 3NT doesn’t make, it is rather easy to declare so. Without that knowledge it certainly sounds more serious, though a clever player could try to take the better of two results. This means that the outcome of the poll should be dealt with differently. In a) if some would double the TD should accept South’s statement. In b) there is no more in it for South than a weighted score, reflecting the outcome of the poll.

S 23)

	♠ 10 9	Board 22 E / EW
	♥ K 9 5 3 2	
	♦ Q 7 2	
	♣ Q 8 5	
♠ Q 5 3	N	♠ K 6 2
♥ A 10 6	W	♥ J 8 4
♦ 9 8 4	E	♦ A 5
♣ J 9 4 3	S	♣ A K 10 7 2
	♠ A J 8 7 4	
	♥ Q 7	
	♦ K J 10 6 3	
	♣ 6	

a)

W	N	E	S
		1♣	2♣
X	pass	pass	

2♣ shows diamonds and spades

South picks up his bidding cards and his partner then asks him: ‘what are you doing?’
He replies: ‘Oh sorry, I thought that the auction was closed’. TD!

b)

W	N	E	S
		1♣	1♠
2♣	pass	pass	

South picks up his bidding cards (not yet in the bidding box), looks around and says:
‘Oh sorry, I thought that the auction was closed’ and then he puts down 2♦. TD!

- a) It is obvious that South indeed made the mistake as he explained. He had not the intention to pass, so the auction is not closed and he has to make a call still.
- b) This case is less clear. Did South want to pass changing his mind cleverly or did he really think that the auction was closed? Up to the TD to decide, estimating the atmosphere at the table. If he considers it to be a change of call Law 25B applies.

S 24)

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

W	N	E	S
			pass
pass	2NT	pass	3♣
pass	3NT	All pass	

South alerts 2NT and explains it as either a strong two-suiter or weak with clubs.

After the play for ten tricks EW call the TD. The play went: small spade, diamond to the 10 and K, spade, diamond to the Queen, ♥J for K and A, small heart to 10 and ♦A on which West discards a heart.

West tells that he did not expect North to have four hearts bidding 3NT after 3♣ by South.

Answers for the players if the TD has questions:

NS are not a regular partnership and have agreed to play South's system. North normally plays 2NT as 20–21 balanced with 3♣ asking for the majors and 3♦ showing one or two 4 card majors. In the system of South 3♦ would have shown a strong two-suiter in diamonds and clubs. South also tells that 3NT is not a systematic bid, so he assumed that North had forgotten.

North has UI which he disgustingly used, therewith earning a severe penalty. Without his partner's explanation 3♦ is the obvious bid and then South might go for slam in diamonds. We need a poll again.