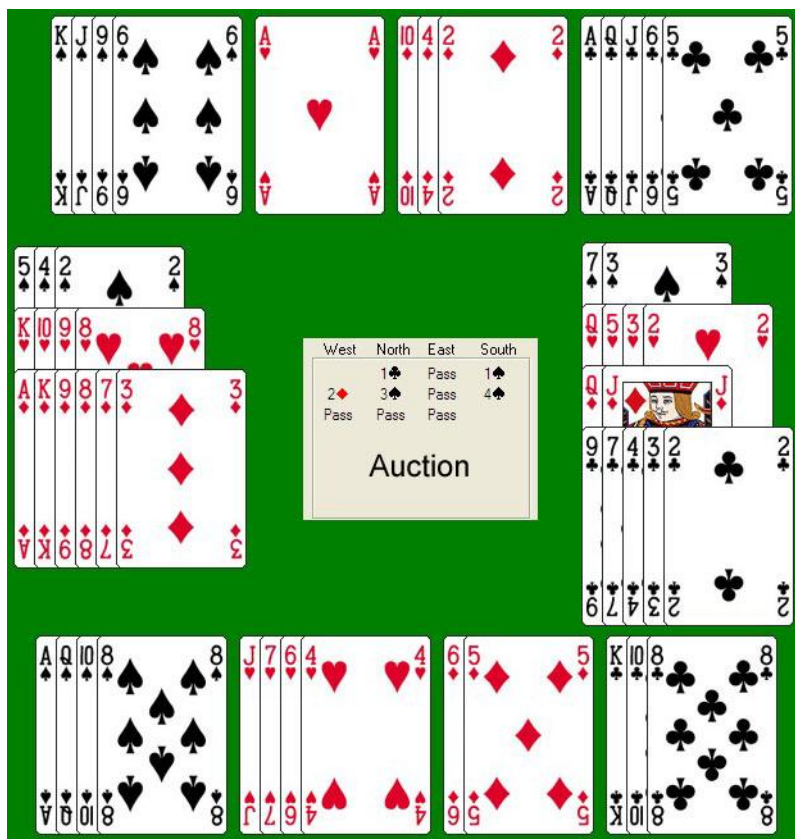


It happens... the bidding is finished and one of the defenders incorrectly assumes who the declarer is and leads out of turn. The Director is called. The following is an interesting hand in that it highlights some of the things that can go wrong if one is not careful about what option one takes when the Director is called after an irregularity.



The auction is as shown with the contract being 4S by South but East incorrectly leads the Q Diamonds out of turn.

The Director is called and all the options are explained after which, the declarer chose to have West to lead a club.

The Q Diamonds was restored to East's hand and was no longer a penalty card.

However, West announced that he didn't have a Club. This meant that declarer had no further rights and West proceeded to lead the 3 Diamonds which East won with the J Diamonds.

East now having been alerted to the fact that partner didn't have any Clubs, returned with the 3 Clubs for West to ruff.

West again leads a small Diamond which East won with her Q Diamonds.

East, quite pleased with the state of affairs returns another Club to be ruffed by partner.

East/West now have 4 tricks and the contract is down 1 before North/South even have a chance of taking a trick.

The lesson in this is to listen carefully to all the options available when an irregularity occurs and the Director is called. The one you choose may in fact come back to bite you!

*Happy Bridging, Bal*