

I thought that I won the last trick

You lead a card thinking you had won the last trick.

If the next person in line follows your lead by playing a card then they have accepted your lead and play continues as if you had won that trick. The only person at the table who can make that choice to accept or refuse your incorrect lead is the next in line eg You are North then only East can make that decision

(NB If East is Dummy then West effectively makes the decisions for East)

If the next person in line does not accept your lead then they should call the Director

NB Their partner should not say anything

(If you are in Defence then Dummy is not allowed to say anything as Declarer is in control of both hands. Dummy's only duty is to try and stop an illegal action from occurring. If you are Declarer then the person on your right cannot venture an opinion as they could be passing information to their partner whose choice it is)

What happens now the Director has turned up?

What if you are Declarer?

Once again Declarer can do little wrong as they cannot pass information to their partner as they have control of both hands anyway. So if the next person in line rejects the lead, the card goes back into the hand it came from and the lead reverts to whoever's turn it actually was. Problem solved.

What if you are in Defence?

Not so straightforward now as your partner knows something that they should not and the Director will have to redress the balance. So the card you played stays face up on the table and has to be played at the first legal opportunity (ie follow suit or discard) (*This is known as a Major Penalty card see "Cards just fall out of my hands"*)

Declarer now has the choice when your partner is next on lead, to either prohibit the suit of your exposed card from being led or insist on it. Why? Because your partner should not be able to take advantage of your exposing your card.

Say it was actually Declarer's lead and you led the Ace of Diamonds. Once your partner gets the lead, they may want to lead a Diamond simply because they now know you have the Ace, a lead that they may not have chosen without that knowledge. So Declarer has the option to stop that happening as Declarer has effectively been disadvantaged by your action.

Say it was your partner's lead, exactly the same.

NB If Declarer decides to ban that suit from being led, then as long as your partner holds the lead, they cannot lead it. That means they cannot simply lead another winner out and then switch to the suit of your exposed card.

The moral of the story

The Key point here is for the next in line to think carefully about whether they want to accept the lead or not, knowing the options available to their side.