

I was sure that they were the Declarer

You lead a card Declarer tells you that it was not your lead.

The Director is called and gives Declarer a bewildering list of options as follows:

1. Declarer can accept the lead and then either
 - a) Elect their partner to play the hand and become Dummy themselves.
(NB This option can give some electronic scoring devices a headache as the lead does not come from the expected hand so you put in the third card played as the lead if the device will not accept the actual lead. That is as if the lead came from the expected hand)
 - b) Put Dummy down immediately and continue to be Declarer following to your lead from their hand
2. Declarer can refuse the lead and then either
 - a) Insist that your partner does not lead that suit
 - b) Insist that your partner does lead that suit

(NB In both cases above the card you led, goes back into your hand to be played at your discretion)

- c) Allow your partner to lead anything but your lead stays exposed on the table and has to be played at the first legal opportunity

Why so many choices, is it really that bad?

As you can imagine, your partner now knows that you wanted to lead that suit and depending upon your system, may know more about your hand than just that card and wanting to lead that suit.

For example if a lead of a small card promises either a top honour (AKQ) or a singleton and your partner can see the top 3 honours, they will know that you have a singleton. Equally if your lead was a King and you play K from AK and Q from KQ then your partner knows that you have AK in that suit.

The main point here if you are Declarer and the lead out of turn occurs, is to think carefully about your options. You may choose to become Dummy because you think the hand will play better from your partner's side especially after you have seen the illegal lead. You may choose to ban that suit from being led knowing what you now know and being aware of the lead conventions of your opponents.