

WBF Laws Committee: Schedule to Section 7 of the minutes of
30th October 2001.

In Section 7 of the above minutes there is mention of the Committee's approval of a statement issued by the Secretary. The statement in question refers to a situation where East opens 1C (artificial) out of rotation; this is not accepted by South. North now opens the bidding with 1S. How does Law 31 apply?

The Secretary replied:

<" It is easiest if we begin by looking at Law 29C. This tells us that in the case of a conventional bid the provisions of Law 31 apply to the denomination specified, not the denomination named.

Now go to Law 31; offender has called at RHO's turn, LHO has not opted to accept the bid out of rotation, and RHO has chosen to bid. Now we learn that offender may make any legal call. So far no problem. Law 31 next says that when this bid repeats the denomination 31A2(a) applies. Does it apply here? No, it does not. Offender has not repeated any denomination.

So how about 31A2(b)? Offender has not repeated the denomination of his bid out of turn - he could not repeat a denomination that did not exist. Plainly the situation is exactly fitting to the wording of 31A2(b) when the words are read with scrupulous care for what they say. A lead penalty if applied would be that in Law 26B; Law 23 would allow the Director discretion to determine whether the offender could have known that his partner's enforced pass "would be likely etc", and for good measure the information that offender has a hand strong enough to open 1C would be unauthorized information for his partner. ">