

Ruling Perron 3 – Chaver 1 (1 Nat) of 11 October 2014

Board 1 N/-

	♠ A x x	
	♥ A K J x x x	
	♦ x x	
	♣ J x	
♠ x x x		♠ 10 x
♥ x x		♥ 10 x
♦ Q J x x		♦ K x x x x x
♣ A Q x x		♣ 10 x x
	♠ K Q J x x	
	♥ Q x x	
	♦ A	
	♣ K x x x	

Bidding

N	E	S	W
1♥	P	1♠	P
2♥	P	4♣ ^A	P
4♠	P	4NT	P
3 Aces P		6♥	all pass

Facts

In the closed room 4♣ is alerted at both sides of the screen. West did not ask any question about the alert, North answered positively to East's question "Splinter?"

East leads Diamonds and the contract is made. Team A complains that with the "correct" explanation East would have led Clubs, by which the contract would have gone one down.

Ruling

North's explanation corresponds to NS's convention card, which stipulates that they use splinter bids. In their system NS also bid controls but first and second controls are bid simultaneously (see convention card).

Law 40C1 says "A player may deviate from his side's announced understandings always provided that his partner has no more reason to be aware of the deviation than have the opponents. Repeated deviations lead to implicit understandings which then form part of the partnership's methods and must be disclosed in accordance with the regulations governing disclosure of system."

On the basis of the law mentioned above we must conclude that North did not commit an infraction, EW got the right information on the system NS play. However, the deviation is recorded; future similar deviation by the same pair may be interpreted as implicit understandings.

Decision

The result reached at the table is maintained.

Paul Meerbergen