

Ruling Perron 4 – Squeeze 3 (2 Nat A) of 18 October 2014

Board 9 N/EW

	♠ Q7	
	♥ J3	
	♦ 75	
	♣ K Q J 7 6 5 4	
♠ J 9 3 2		♠ K 10 8 6 5 4
♥ A 7 6 2		♥ Q 8
♦ K J		♦ 10 6 2
♣ 10 9 8		♣ A 2
	♠ A	
	♥ K 10 9 5 4	
	♦ A Q 9 8 4 3	
	♣ 3	

Bidding

S	W	N	E
		3NT	P
P	P		

Facts

Screens are in use.

In the closed room North explains her bid of 3NT as gambling. To East's question "Fermée", North answers "Yes".

East Leads ♣A and in the second trick plays ♥Q for K - A - 3, thereby creating an entry in North.

Result: 3NT +2

Ruling

North's explanation does not correspond to NS's convention card in which 3NT is explained as "solid minor with stop". "Solid" is not equivalent to "closed" (fermée), which actually suggests AKQJ...

However, 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 player (Leentje Verleyen 14171) or her partner may be interpreted as implicit understanding.

Decision

The result reached at the table is maintained.

Paul Meerbergen