

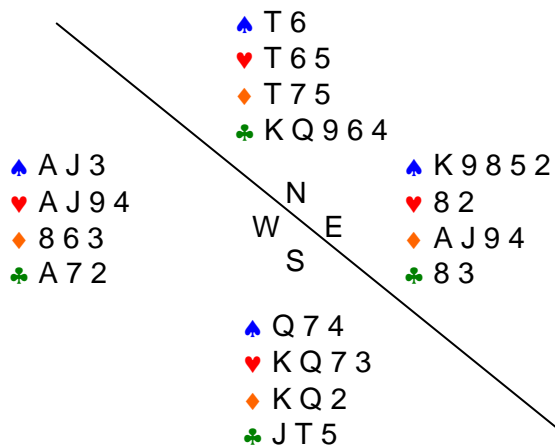
Ruling on board 1 (open room)

NS : B.C.O.B. 1
Faramarz Bigdelli – Guy Pollet

– **EW : B.C.O.B. 2**
 – **Jean-François Jourdain – Alexandre Thys**

Board 1 : North dealer, None vulnerable

Bidding:



West	North	East	South
	PAS	2 ♠ ^A	PAS
2 NT ^A	PAS	3 ♦ ^A	PAS
3 ♠ ^A	PAS	4 ♦ ^A	PAS
4 ♠	PAS	PAS	PAS

Facts

The call of 2♠ is alerted and explained at both sides of the screen as Muiderberg (5♠ & 4+ minor). 2NT is alerted and explained at both sides of the screen as strong relay. 3♦ is alerted and explained at both sides of the screen as minimal with diamonds. 3♠ is alerted at both sides of the screen. East explains this as “forcing” and West as “limit”. 4♦ is alerted at both sides of the screen. East explains this as “control diamonds” and West as “5 card diamonds”

South leads with the King of Hearts after which the contract of 4♠ is just made.

Becoming aware of the different explanations given by East and West, I am called to the table by North. He states that if his partner (South) would have got the correct explanation about the call of 4♦ (implicitly denying a control in clubs) he might have led clubs instead of hearts. The contract would then go one down.

This bidding sequence is mentioned on the convention card as follows: “2NT + fit = slammisch”.

Ruling

As the bidding sequence is mentioned on the convention card, it is proven that the explanation given by West was wrong. This mistaken explanation is an infraction of Law, since South is entitled to an accurate description of the East-West agreement.

A side that is damaged **as a consequence** of its opponents’ failure to provide disclosure of the meaning of a call or play as these laws require, is entitled to rectification through the award of an adjusted score (Law 40.B.4).

It is clear from the bidding sequence that South needs to choose between a lead in hearts or clubs. Now South, with the mistaken explanation, has chosen to lead hearts. Would he have chosen differently, knowing that East denies a control in clubs? After consulting 5 other players from the Honour Division, of which 4 claim they would lead hearts without a doubt (develop quick winners) and 1 clubs, maybe hearts, it is safe to assume that hearts would still be the most probable lead. Therefore, we can say that NS are not disadvantaged as a result of West's infraction.

Decision

The result reached at the table is maintained.

The EW pair **Jean-François Jourdain – Alexandre Thys** gets an official warning for insufficient knowledge of their conventions.

Robert Ketels
Tournament Director