

Ruling on board 14 (closed room)

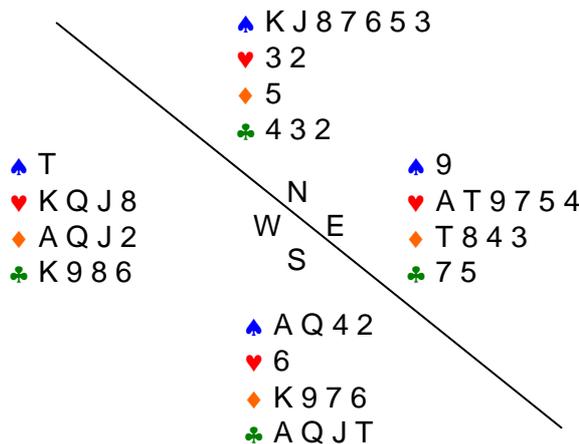
NS : Begijntje 1
 Guy Van Middeltem – Philippe Caputo

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EW : U.A.E. 1
 Mike Van Der Vorst – Eric Colinet

Board 14 : East dealer, None vulnerable

Bidding:



West	North	East	South
		2 ♥	X
XX	4 ♠	PAS	PAS
5 ♥	PAS	PAS X
PAS	5 ♠	PAS	PAS
X	PAS	PAS	PAS

Facts

At the end of the bidding, I am called to the table by North (Guy Van Middeltem) who notifies me that there was a pause for thought at the other side of the screen and that he is convinced that it was his partner who hesitated. He stated furthermore that, although being well aware that he should carefully avoid to take any advantage from that unauthorized information, he decided to make the call of 5♠ solely based on his own holdings. After investigation, South confirms that he took a pause for thought.

After the play (contract one down +100 for EW), I am called back to the table by East who stipulates that the call of 5♠ by North might have been based on Souths hesitation and therefore should not be authorised. Furthermore he claims that the contract of 5♥ is made if one finds the squeeze in the minors, which is not that difficult in his opinion.

Ruling

Law 16.B.1 says that after a player (*South*) has made available to his partner extraneous information that may suggest a call by an unmistakable hesitation, the partner (*North*) may not choose from among logical alternatives one that could demonstrably have been suggested over another by the extraneous information. A logical alternative action is one that, among the class of players in question and using the methods of the partnership, would be given serious consideration by a significant proportion of such players, of whom it is judged some might select it.

After consulting three players of honour division it appears that, without the pause of thought, two of them would Pass and only one them would make the call of 5♠. Consequently, Pass is considered as being a logical alternative and North, by making the call of 5♠, has chosen an action that could have been suggested by the unmistakable hesitation.

Based on the double dummy analysis and the results at two other tables where the contract of 5♥X was played, it is considered that the latter contract would have been made if played by EW. This would have resulted in a score of +650 for EW instead of +100.

Law 16.B.3 says that an adjusted score shall be assigned (in accordance with Law 12C) if it is considered that an infraction of law has resulted in an advantage for the offender.

Decision

The result at the table, 5♠X by North 1 down for a score of +100 for EW, is annulled and replaced by 5♥X by East just made for a score of +650 for EW.

Robert Ketels
Tournament Director

The team Begijntje filed an appeal against the above decision.
The appeal committee convened the same evening and was composed of Philippe Coenraets (president), Raf Vermeiren, Claude Renard and Dirk Logghe.
The committee maintained the TD's decision and returned the caution (see separate report).