

Ruling Pieterman 1 – Verviers 1 (2 Nat A) of 3 October 2015

Preliminary note

The form was filled out very slovenly:

- EW bid and play 6NT, whereas actually it must be NS
- E was indicated as Dealer whereas it is West
- there are 11 spades and 15 hearts
- some cards occur twice, whereas others are missing

Board 12 W/NS

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

Bidding

N	E	S	W
			P
2♣ ^A	P	2NT ^A	P
4NT	P	5♣	P
5♦	P	5♥	P
5♠	P	5NT	all pass
6NT			

Facts

Declarer South wins the first six tricks (♣A, ♥A, ♥K, ♠J, ♠A and ♠K). She then plays small ♠ for West's Q. West plays a small ♣ for dummy's K. Until here both pairs agree, which they do not on what follows.

Version of declarer. "After playing ♠K I know the contract is won: 5 Hearts, 3 Spades, 2 Clubs, ♦A and 1 trick in either Spades or Diamonds. After winning West's return of Clubs for the King of dummy, I am diverted by movements round the table and say 'Queen of Diamonds'; the opponent immediately puts a small Diamond on the table and I say that I wanted to play ♠5. It all happened "dans la foulée"."

Version of East. Declarer says 'Queen of Diamonds' ; at the moment declarer sees that I follow with a small diamond, she realizes she will go down and says 'Sorry partner'.

Team A adds that they called the TD that was in the room for the matches in Honour. He told the players what the Laws say on what happened at the table. The players complain that the

TD refused to give an official ruling. TD that is in the room for the matches in Honour can only act as a TD in these matches and is not entitled to do any ruling in other matches. The only thing he can do (and does not have to do) in case of a problem in the latter is tell the players what the Laws say for that particular case. The TD who was actually there acted perfectly.

Ruling

Law 45B says "Declarer plays a card from dummy by naming the card, after which dummy picks up the card and faces it on the table. "

Declarer said that she told her partner to play the queen of Diamonds, therefore the card is played.

Law 45C4(b) says "Until his partner has played a card a player may change an unintended designation if he does so without pause for thought (...)"

In the declaration of Team B we read "A ce moment je suis distraite (...)". This is not what is meant by an "unintended call". The player clearly mentioned the card and apparently realized her mistake when she saw the following card of the opponent.

Decision

The result reached at the table is maintained.

Additional remark

A TD that is in the room for the matches in Honour can only act as a TD in these matches and is not entitled to do any ruling in other matches even if they are played in the same room.

The only thing he can do (but does not have to do) in case of a problem in the latter is tell the players what the Laws say for that particular case. The TD who was actually there acted perfectly.

Paul Meerbergen