

Ruling Charleroi 1 - Genk 3 (2 Nat B) of 14 November 2015

Board 9 N/EW

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

Bidding

N	E	S	W
P	P	P	1♦
P	2♦ ^A	P	2♥ ^A
P	2NT	P	3NT

all pass

Facts

Screens are in use.

2♦ is alerted and explained by West to South as 9+ HP and no 4 card major; 2♥ is alerted and explained as control Hearts.

2NT is alerted and explained by West as denying control Spade, East does not alert his 2NT. South leads a small Spade, thinking East holds no control in that suit.

First three tricks:

South leads ♠3-♠5-♠9-♠J.

East plays ♦5-♦3-♦K-♦6

West plays ♦2-♦10-♦Q-♦A

South then continues with ♠. Result: 3NT by East + 1.

South claims the contract would have gone down if he had led a small Club (four ♣ and ♦A), which – he said - he would have done if he had received the correct information.

Team B points out that West bid 3NT as he held a stopper in ♠ himself; they doubt whether South would have led ♣ - in their words the only lead to beat the contract - if he had received the right information on 2NT: stopper in ♠ and ♣.

Ruling

By giving the wrong information on 2NT West commits an infraction of the law.

For his lead South has the choice between Clubs and Spades; EW's convention card says they lead 4th best against NT. Nevertheless, basing himself on the information he got from West South chooses for Spades as East is thought not to have a stopper in that suit.

After the first trick South should realize that North does not hold ♠K as if he had he would have played it. Continuing ♠ in the fourth trick therefore is to be considered as not the best line to play. A switch to Clubs would still have beaten the contract.

We can therefore conclude that NS are not disadvantaged **as a result** of West's infraction (wrong information).

Decision

The result reached at the table stands.

Paul Meerbergen