

Ruling Perron 5 – UAE 3 (3 Nat C) of 28 November 2015

Board 30 E/-

Hands of North and South were not given.

	♠	
	♥	
	♦	
	♣	
♠	Q x x	♠ x x
♥	A K Q x x	♥ 9 x x x
♦	10	♦ K Q x x x
♣	Q J x x	♣ A x
	♠	
	♥	
	♦	
	♣	

Bidding

N	E	S	W
	P	1♠	2♥
2♠	4♥	all pass	

Facts

Screens are in use.

Play

N	E	S	W	N	E	S	W
♠x	♠x	♠A	♠x				
		♠K	♠x	♠x	♠x		
		♣x	♣Q	♣K	♣A		
	♥x	♠x	♥A	♥x			
			♦x	??	♦K	...♦A	

After declarer plays ♦K in dummy, South thinks for a moment and before she plays a card North says “We have already won two tricks”. Then South plays ♦A.

Team B (EW) complains that North’s remark may have influenced South in her decision which card to play.

North says he only wanted to correct the number of tricks they had lost and won (apparently South had put her cards that had been played wrong) for all four players.

Ruling

Law 65B3 says “Declarer may require that a card pointed incorrectly is pointed as above. Dummy or either defender may draw attention to a card pointed incorrectly, **but for these**

players the right expires when a lead is made to the following trick. If done later Law 16B may apply.”

Law 16B1 says “After a player makes available to his partner extraneous information that may suggest a call or play, as for example by a remark, a question, a reply to a question, an unexpected alert or failure to alert, or by unmistakable hesitation, unwonted speed, special emphasis, tone, gesture, movement, or mannerism, the partner may not choose from among logical alternatives one that could demonstrably have been suggested over another by the extraneous information. “*

The fact that East thinks before playing makes clear that she doubted whether or not to play the Ace, i.e. that ducking the Ace for her was a possibility. The fact that she apparently thought NS had only won one trick might have been an element in her decision. North sets this right, but by doing so South receives illicit information, which she is not allowed to use. South’s thinking makes clear that she saw two alternatives: win the trick with the Ace or duck. Her partner’s remark may have influenced her decision to play the Ace.

Decision

The result reached at the table is annulled and replaced by 4♥ by West, just made (instead of -1), being +420 for Team B.

The balance on board 30 then is +470 for Team B (420+50), which is +10 IMPs for Team B instead of 0.

The final score of the match Perron 5- UAE 3 is 34-91 (instead of 34-81) in IMPs or **6-24** in VPs (instead of 7-23)

Paul Meerbergen