

Ruling Report National Competition

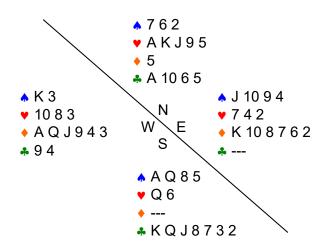
Division: Honour Date: 06th October 2018

Match: Round 2 B.C.O.B. 1 – B.C.O.B. 3 Open/Closed Room

<u>Players:</u> NS Valérie Labaere – Alain Labaere (B.C.O.B. 1)

EW Faramarz Bidgeli – Louis-Carl Speleers (B.C.O.B. 3)

Board: 14 Dealer: E Vulnerability: None



According to the double dummy solver:

NS can make : 1NT, 4♠, 7♥ (N) or

6♥ (S) and 7♣

EW can make: 3

Facts and analysis

 The contract is 6 → X by West. The result noted at the table by both pairs is 4 down for a score of 800 for NS (lead K ♥). This result was also recorded in the Bridgemate. After the match, the official score sheet was distributed (around 16.10 Hr). Both teams acknowledged that all scores were correct.

2. In the early evening of Sunday 7 October the Competition Director (CD) received a phone call from Guy Pollet (captain B.C.O.B. 3), who asked whether it was possible to change a wrongly encoded score on board 14 in the match BCOB 1 - BCOB 3 of 6 October 2018. Apparently Guy had noticed that -4 (800) was impossible with any plan and that -3 (500) was the correct score.

The CD sent an e-mail to both captains involved saying that on the basis of Section 43.03 of the National Teams Regulations the result could be corrected, but only after both captains had given their consent in writing. The same evening the CD received a reply from Alain Labaere (playing at the table of the incident) who agreed with the change. He gave more explanations of what had actually happened: the score that was encoded was the score agreed upon at the table after a claim (concession): four off doubled (800).

3. The fact that the contested score was the result of a claim (concession) somewhat changes the situation.

Law 71 of the International Code says

"A concession must stand, once made, except that within the Correction Period established under Law 79C the Director shall cancel a concession:

- A. if a player conceded a trick his side had, in fact, won; or
- B. if a player has conceded a trick that could not be lost by any normal play of the remaining cards.

The board is rescored with such trick awarded to his side."

- 4. Law 79C1 says that "Unless the Tournament Organizer specifies a later time, the Correction Period expires 30 minutes after the official score has been made available for inspection."
- 5. In Law 79C2 we read that "Subject to approval by the Tournament Organizer, a scoring error may be corrected after expiry of the Correction Period if the Director is satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the record is wrong."
- 6. Section 43.03 of the National Teams Regulations implicitly lengthens the period of 30 minutes for possible corrections of errors.
- 7. As it is not clear in the regulations if the possibility to extend the period for correcting scoring errors also applies for the cancellation of a concession, I contacted an EBL Assistant Chief TD (from the Netherlands). After reflection he confirmed that the possibility to extend the period also applies to law 71 because of the sentence "The board is rescored ...".
- 8. Taking into account that:
 - a. both pairs agreed that a trick was conceded that could not be lost by any normal play of the remaining cards;
 - b. it is impossible with any normal plan to make less than 9 tricks (confirmed by the double dummy solver)

I am convinced beyond reasonable doubt that the record is wrong.

Decision

The board 14 is rescored. The new score is 500 for NS (6 \star X by West -3). The balance on board 14 becomes +440 for B.C.O.B. 3 = + 10 IMP (closed room : 6 \star by South +1). The result of the match B.C.O.B. 1 – B.C.O.B. 3 becomes 64 – 25 in IMP or 17,97 – 2,03 in VP (instead of 64 – 19 in IMP and 18,66 – 1,34 in VP).

Done at Ruisbroek (Puurs) on 19 October 2018

Robert Ketels
Tournament Director