Appeal Form National Competition

Royal Belgian Bridge Federation

Division: Honour RR6   Date: 16 October 2021

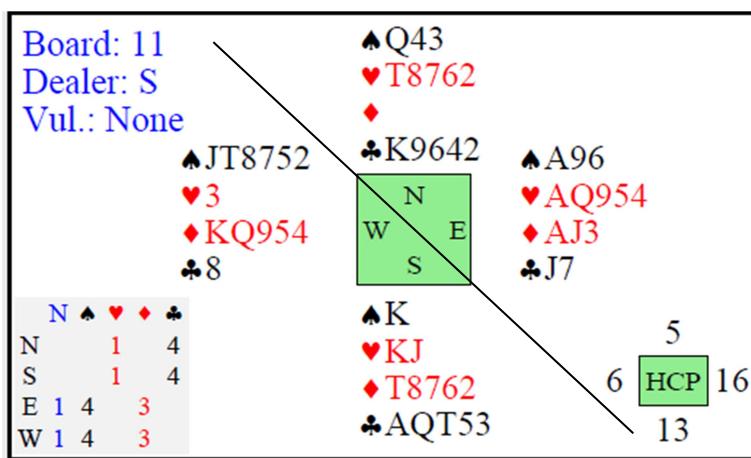Match: BBC 2 – U.A.E. 1   Open/~~Closed~~ Room

Players: **NS**   Frédéric CARPENTIER – Jean François JOURDAIN (BBC 2)
                 EW   Dominique STUYCK – Sam BAHBOUT (U.A.E. 1)

Board: 11   Dealer: S   Vulnerability: None   Bidding

West	North	East	South
–	–	–	1♦
1♠	dbl	redbl	2♣
2♦	3♣	4♠	…pass
pass	5♣	pass	pass
pass			

Coincidently, I had seen all bidding and play of the hand, as this table was closest to the bar where I was sitting to have the best view over the playing area. I had noticed a long hesitation by South after 4♠.

After play of the board was finished, West (from the wrong side of te screen) drew attention to the break in tempo by South, which might have helped North to bid 5♣.

Play
Not relevant, declarer made ten tricks.

Result and score:
5♣ by South, down one, NS -50

Adjusted score
4♠ by East, just made, NS -420

Result and score in the other room :
2♣ by South, plus two, NS +130

Balance: -550, -11 IMP to NS

Result of the match with this board
IMP: 50 – 35

Result of the match without this board
IMP: 50 – 24

Analysis

According to the screen regulations, the TD should preferably be called from the side of the screen were there was no break in tempo. However, when the 'same' side draws attention, the TD may nevertheless decide to make a ruling. In this case, the break in tempo was very clear, at least 30 seconds and maybe close to a minute. It is almost impossible the break in tempo is caused by West, so it results in unauthorized information to North, who is not allowed to choose a call that might have been suggested by the u.i.

The north hand was polled with three strong Dutch players, two of them replying in time, the third one later. All three responded that they would never bid or even consider to bid 5♣, as they had bid 3♣ in the previous round. If 5♣ was the correct decision, partner should have bid that. Also one of the Belgium players (not playing this round) was polled and he said more or less the same.

Decision

From the poll it became clear 5♣ might have been suggested by the u.i., therefore the ruling was to adjust the score to 4♠ making ten tricks. I informed both teams and told them they had the right to appeal.

The captain of the team BBC 2 decided to appeal. Steven De Donder was asked to chair the appeal committee, his co-members were Yael Topiol and Steve De Roos.
The appeal was immediately dealt with, no appeal form was filled out. I presented the case, both pairs were given the opportunity to present their views, after which the committee decided to upheld the decision. Hereunder is the full report of the appeal committee.

Done at Tilburg (Ned) on 16 October 2021, at 23.30.

Marc van Beijsterveldt
Tournament Director

Leden van het appeal comité : Steven De Donder, Steve De Roos, Yael Topiol
Er werd aan beide partijen gevraagd of er iemand bezwaar had tegen de samenstelling van het appeal comité. Niemand tekende bezwaar aan.
Er werden niet echt nieuwe punten aangereikt op het appeal. De aarzeling werd onderkend door beide partijen. Hierdoor konden we enkel kijken naar hoe de wedstrijdleider het geval behandeld had. Het comité is van oordeel dat er voldoende spelers geconsulteerd werden met de correcte vraag of ze zouden doorbieden op 4sch in de gegeven situatie. De geraadpleegde spelers waren van hetzelfde niveau (1 Ere, 2 meesterklasse en tijdens het appeal kwam er nog een antwoord binnen van een 4de speler uit de meesterklasse). Deze antwoorden waren unaniem, zijnde ze vonden pas opgelegd. Dit duidt erop dat doorbieden in deze situatie gebaseerd kan zijn op de ongeoorloofde informatie van de overkant (zijnde de denkpauze).
De beslissing van de wedstrijdleider wordt gehandhaafd.
Opmerking van het appeal comité : dit appeal is op de rand van frivool. Het geld werd grotendeels niet ingehouden omdat dit nog niet betaald was maar dit had gerust gekund in dit geval. Advies voor een volgende appeal van dergelijke aard is om het geld in te houden.