

Ruling Report National Competition

Division : Honour Division Date : 14 October 2023

Match : BBC 2 – BBC 3 ~~Open~~/Closed Room

Players: NS Alain Kaplan – Guy Polet (BBC 3)

EW Frédérique Carpentier – Jean-François Jourdain (BBC 2)

Board : 8 Dealer : W Vulnerability : None

Original Hand Record		Hand Record at table 8 (closed room)
<p style="text-align: center;">♠ K Q 3 ♥ J ♦ A 10 9 6 2 ♣ 9 5 3 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">N W E S</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ 8 7 6 2 ♥ K 10 7 3 ♦ Q 4 3 ♣ J 7</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em;"> </p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ 8 7 6 2 ♥ K 10 7 3 ♦ Q 4 3 ♣ J 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">N W E S</p> <p style="text-align: center;">♠ K Q 3 ♥ J ♦ A 10 9 6 2 ♣ 9 5 3 2</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">♠ --- ♥ A Q 9 8 5 4 ♦ 7 5 ♣ A Q 10 6 4</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em;"> </p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ --- ♥ A Q 9 8 5 4 ♦ 7 5 ♣ A Q 10 6 4</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A J 10 9 5 4 ♥ 6 2 ♦ K J 8 ♣ K 8</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em;"> </p>	<p style="text-align: center;">♠ A J 10 9 5 4 ♥ 6 2 ♦ K J 8 ♣ K 8</p>

Analysis

I was called at the table 8 when the players wanted to register the result of 4 ♥ = played by West with the lead of ♦ 3. The bridgemate did not accept this result because the combination of declarer and lead did not correspond with the official hand record. Initially I maintained the score obtained at the table 8 and I gave a warning to both teams at the table 6 (Cercle Perron 1 and Begijntje 1) where they had put the cards in the wrong packet of the board (misboarding).

After heavy protest from the players, I consulted another TD present at the scene to resolve this rather exceptional case. Following this, I decided to award an assigned adjusted score as foreseen in Law 86.B.1. At the request of the players of both teams, this was done in such a way so that the balance on board 8 for both teams was equal to zero.

The next morning, I did not feel comfortable with my decision because I felt it might not be in line with the regulations and even be illegal. Being at home at ease, I had a thorough look at the regulations and some other documents. It became pretty quick clear that I applied the wrong Law and consequently took the wrong decision.

According to Law 87.A., a board is considered to be fouled if a card (or more than one) was displaced in the board, or if the dealer or vulnerability differed between two copies of the same board, and the contestants who should have a score comparison did not play the board in identical form for such reason.

In the official Commentary on the 2017 Laws the following clarification is given regarding a fouled board in teams play: *“When a fouled board has been played to completion at both tables of a teams match (in two different conditions), the board has by definition two separate results, neither of which is valid for comparison purposes. In such circumstances both the results obtained are of equal validity and/or importance. Therefore the applicable Law is 86B2 and not Law 86B1”*.

As no contestant at table 8 was at fault (the players at table 6 caused the problem), Law 86.B.2.(a) applies. This implies that I must cancel the board and award one or more artificial adjusted scores in line with Law 12.C.2.

Decisions

I cancel the board 8 of the match between BBC 2 and BBC 3 (round 9 of the RR).

As both contestants are not at fault, I award an artificial adjusted score of average plus to both teams, which corresponds to a score of +3 IMP.

From the point of view of BBC 2 the result of the match is 39 – 11 in IMP or 16,42 VP for BBC 2 instead of 36 – 11 in IMP or 15,92 VP for BBC 2.

From the point of view of BBC 3 the result of the match is 36 – 14 in IMP or 4,62 VP for BBC 3 instead of 36 – 11 in IMP or 4,08 VP for BBC 3.

To those responsible for the misboarding (= passing on the wrong 13 cards), with the aggravating circumstance that an adjusted score needed to be awarded at another table, I assess a procedural penalty of 1 VP (Law 90.B.6 and 90.B.7). As both teams, Cercle Perron 1 and Begijntje 1, are equally at fault, they both get a penalty of 0,5 VP.

Both teams can file an appeal against this decision within 7 calendar days. Please refer to the new regulations for the treatment of an appeal, which can be consulted on the website of the RBBF.

Done at Ruisbroek (Puurs-Sint-Amands) on 17 October 2023

Robert Ketels
Tournament Director