

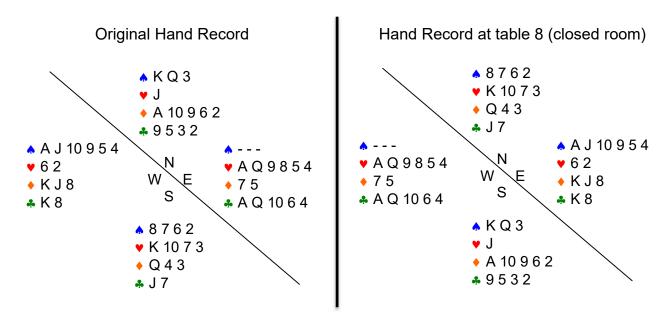
Ruling Report National Competition

<u>Division</u>: Honour Division <u>Date</u>: 14 October 2023

<u>Players: NS</u> Alain Kaplan – Guy Polet (BBC 3)

<u>EW</u> Frédérique Carpentier – Jean-François Jourdain (BBC 2)

Board: 8 Dealer: W Vulnerability: None



<u>Analysis</u>

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 <u>by definition</u> 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