

Ruling Report National Competition

Division : 1

Date : 25 November 2023

Match : Sandeman 1 – Cercle Perron 2

~~Open~~/Closed Room

Players: NS Etienne Delangre – Marc Lebas (Cercle Perron 2)

EW Johnny Schalkx – Tom Van Muylem (Sandeman 1)

Board : 17 Dealer : N Vulnerability : None

Bidding

<p>♠ Q 4 ♥ 10 7 3 2 ♦ 10 7 6 4 3 2 ♣ 2</p>	<p>N W E S</p>	<p>♠ A K J 8 ♥ J 9 5 ♦ A 9 ♣ 8 6 5 4</p> <p>♠ 9 6 3 ♥ K 6 ♦ K 8 ♣ A K Q 10 9 7</p> <p>♠ 10 7 5 2 ♥ A Q 8 4 ♦ Q J 5 ♣ J 3</p>
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West	North	East	South
	1 NT ^A	X ^A	Pass ^A
2 ♠ ^A	Pass	3 ♣ ^A	X
3 ♦	Pass	Pass	X
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1 NT = 13-15 HCP ; X (East) = 15+ HCP (optional penalty, systems on) ; 2 ♠ (weak) transfer minor ; 3 ♣ = Pass or correct

Pass (South) Alerted by North and explained to East as forcing (North must XX if West passes)
Not alerted by South

Playing

	W	N	E	S	W	N	E
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							

Result and score :

3 ♦ X -2 by W → 300 for NS (C. Perron 2)

Result and score in the other room :

3 ♦ X -3 by W → 500 for NS (Sandeman 1)

Balance : 200 or 5 IMP for Sandeman 1

Result of the match with this board

IMP : 42 – 38

Result of the match without this board

IMP : 37 – 38

Remarks from team A (Sandeman 1)

1NT – doubled – Pass was alerted by the bidder of 1NT [North]. At my side [West] there was no alert on the Pass.

The Pass was forcing. I [West] did not know this. So, I made a transfer for the minors. Otherwise, I would have passed and partner bids 2 clubs (end).

Remarks from team B (Cercle Perron 2)

It is OK for us.

Analysis

After 1 NT – X, NS play the following convention:

- XX = forces 2 ♣, after which any suit bid = weak
- Suit = real suit + next higher suit (at least 4-4)
- Pass = forces XX, after which Pass (strong) or ♣ = ♣ + ♥, ♦ = ♦ + ♠

Consequently, South should have alerted his forcing Pass. According to Law 20.F.5(a) 'Mistaken explanation' includes failure to alert as regulations require. If EW are damaged as a consequence of South's failure to provide disclosure of the meaning of a call, as required by the Laws, then EW are entitled to rectification through the award of an adjusted score (Law 40.B.3(a)).

In order to determine what the final contract would be if South had alerted correctly, I organised a poll among 9 players from Honour (7) or 1st national division (2).

With the correct explanation two players said it was obvious to Pass with the West hand and so I did not consult someone else.

After a Pass from West and XX from North I asked two other players what they would bid with the East hand. As one of them would Pass and the other one would bid 2 ♣, I consulted three additional players. All of them would bid 2 ♣.

Then I asked two other players what they would bid with the South hand after either Pass or 2 ♣ from East. For both of them it was obvious to Pass in the first case (=willing to play 1NT XX) and to X for take-out in the second case.

Then I went back to the players who had already seen the East hand and asked them what they would bid now. After 1NT - X - Pass – Pass, XX – Pass – Pass both of them would bid 2 ♦ to play. After 1NT - X - Pass – Pass, XX – 2 ♣ – X both of them would Pass.

Finally I went back to the players who had already seen the South hand and asked them what they would bid now. After 1NT - X - Pass – Pass, XX – Pass – Pass – 2 ♦, Pass – Pass both of them would again X for take-out as they did after 2 ♣.

After the X for take-out by South several players agreed that with the North hand, they would now bid 2 ♠. This will probably be the final contract which makes with one overtrick for a score of 140 for NS.

Decision

South failed to alert his conventional Pass and this is an infraction of Law 75.B.1. As a consequence of this infraction, EW were damaged and so they are entitled to rectification through the award of an adjusted score. In line with Law 12.C.1, I award an assigned adjusted score on board 17 of 2 ♠ +1 by North → 140 for NS (Cercle Perron 2). The balance on board 17 becomes 360 or 8 IMP for Sandeman 1 instead of 200 or 5 IMP for Sandeman 1.

The result of the match Sandeman 1 – Cercle Perron 2 becomes 45 – 38 in IMP or 11,83 – 8,17 in VP instead of 42 – 38 in IMP or 11,08 – 8,92 in 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 02 December 2023

Robert Ketels

Tournament Director for the national competition