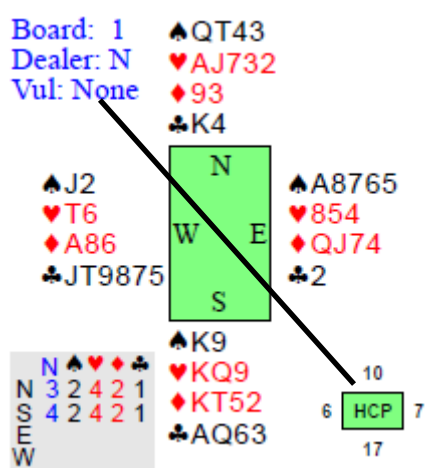




North: Alain Kaplan (BBC 3)
South: Guy Polet (BBC 3)
East: Tom Cornelis (Pieterman 1)
West: Dirk Logghe (Pieterman 1)

Contract 4♥ S
 Lead: ♣B

Case

Halfway through the play the declarer claims the remaining tricks. At that point EW had 3 tricks already. There ensues a discussion whether ♣A is played to which West followed suit and then the declarer tabled the rest of his hand, or if the declarer tabled his hand all in one motion. The previous two tricks the declarer played ♥K and ♥Q, to which both East and West followed suit.

Research

It turned out to be impossible to get an agreement on the facts.

NS claim that the declarer laid all his card on the table since he had the rest.

EW claim that the declarer played the ♣A first and then (after West already followed suit) put down the rest as a claim.

If ♣A was played then East would get a ruff, defeating the contract.

Ruling

It cannot be determined whether ♣A is played or not.

Law 85A1 says that the TD must gather what evidence he/she can and make a decision based on the balance of probabilities.

Law 70C says that if there's an outstanding trump the trick must be awarded to the opponents if all of the three mentioned conditions are met. In my opinion it's unlikely that the declarer forgot about the outstanding trump, at this competition level, as he just played two trump tricks and ascertained that both opponents followed suit. Therefore I find it most likely that declarer wanted to table all his cards but did so awkwardly, by which EW were under the impression one card was played first. All tricks are awarded to the declarer.