Ruling Namur 2 – Verviers 1 (2 Nat A) of 13 December 2014

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Board 27 S/-
             ♦ Q
             ▼ A K J 7 2
             ♦ K Q 9 5
             $982
▲ K 9 8 6 5 3 2
                          ▲ J 10 7 4
                          ♥ 9
◆ J 8 6 3 2
                          ♦ A 7
                          AJ6543
♣ Q
             ♦ A
             ♥ Q 10 8 6 5 4 3
             ♦ 104
             ♣ K 10 7
Bidding
Ν
             S
                   W
      E
             4♥
                   Ρ
             Dbl
                   Ρ
4♠
      5+
5♥
      all pass
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Facts

In the open room North alerts $4 \lor$, but says to East that he does not know what $4 \lor$ means. In a mail (also received by the opponents' captain) East said that North added " but I think it's Texas", whereupon he bid $4 \bigstar$. East alleges that the alert of $4 \lor$ prevented him from doubling North's $4 \bigstar$.

 $4 \bigstar$ is not alerted by South. West therefore thinks the bid is natural, which prevents him from doubling

Ruling

The fact that North cannot tell East the meaning of $4 \checkmark$ should not have been a problem to East: NS's convention card clearly states that $4 \checkmark$ is a preempt in Hearts (7 cards). North is not sure, the right way to handle for East is then to look at NS's convention card. Therefore, East's criticism that he could not double cannot be accepted. If he had doubled West would not have had a problem in bidding $5 \bigstar$.

North's remark that he did not know the meaning of $4 \bullet$ is unacceptable (elementary item in the system) and caused the problems at the table.

Decision

The result reached at the table stands. Team A Namur 2 is penalized by 1 VP for not knowing their system.

The final result of the match result Namur 2 – Verviers 1 therefore is 13-16

Paul Meerbergen