



AVOID THE REVIEW

When TDs do their job well

By Maurizio Di Sacco



CASE 1:

*You are the TD at the World
Mixed Teams round of 32
Knockout*

CASE 1: SOUTH/WEST

This is the auction South saw. Only 2S was alerted, but West eventually gestured on 3H when the tray came back with North's 4H on it. At the end he alleged he had also said "*not necessarily natural*", but that was challenged by South and the video recording could not prove right either version. But what you should focus on is: either way, he never gave South the explanation received by North.

5DX did not play well despite misdefence.

Hand 28

W West

♠ J8652

♥ 9

♦ A6

♣ A8762

S South

♠ 9

♥ AK

♦ J10987432

♣ K4

W	N	E	S
2♠	P	3♥	4♦
P	4♥	X	5♦
X	P	P	P

5♦x S
NS: 0 EW: 0

ON THE
NORTH/EAST SIDE
OF THE SCREEN:

EAST ALERTED 3H

It's a "game try in spades"

EW South sought a ruling on the basis that had she would have passed 4H doubled if she had been properly informed. Yet, this is not the only point the TD should consider.

W	N	E	S
2♠	P	3♥	4♦
P	4♥	X	5♦
X	P	P	P

N North
♠ K1043
♥ QJ8765
♦ J105
♣ J105

E East
♠ AQ7
♥ 10432
♦ KQ5
♣ Q93

5♦x S	NS: 0 EW: 0
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SO TO AVOID THE REVIEW:

RULE ON THE BASIS THAT EW DID NOT DEMONSTRATE THE SAME AGREEMENT ON BOTH SIDES OF THE TABLE .

- EW could not prove their agreement: it does not matter whether any bid corresponds to the explainer's holding: it is still misinformation.
 - West is required to give complete disclosure of the side's methods when the call is made. Wawting a hand four bids later, or even adding some unclear explanation is an infraction of LAW 20,21 and 75.
 - Neither North nor South are required to know, anticipate or even try to guess the opponents' system (except in cases of "lack of self protection", not relevant here).
 - If East and West give completely different explanations, unless one can prove otherwise the LAW is simple – **err on the side of misexplanation (75B) NOT mistaken call (75C).**
 - Both North and South are entitled to act with full knowledge of the opponents' methods given in a timely manner.
- Avoid considering a stated agreement correct simply because it matches the hand that the player held.
 - Apply 20, 21 & LAW 75D
 - at any time where there is a discrepancy in the alerts/explanations on both sides of the screen that is not proven by convention card, system notes or playing evidence.

A CORRECT RULING WILL BE MADE ONLY AFTER BOTH “CORRECT” EXPLANATIONS HAVE BEEN

CONSIDERED IN AN INDEPENDENT
TREATY SACHS AND AN INDEPENDENT
MISSEXPLANATION CASE:

- We'll not argue here what happened in Wroclaw and why, what we're interested in is what was the wrong approach by the TDs who did the test, and to do that we'll see the only right one.
- Which is: since EW cannot prove their agreement, the Laws require the TD to approach the problem from both sides of the screen, in both cases giving the player the explanation received in the other side.

SO CAREFULLY CONSIDER:

- Holding South's cards, what would be bid after 3♥ described as game try in spades?
- Holding North's cards, what would be bid over 4♦ if 3♥ is natural?
- Suppose North passes: what would East bid over 4♦?
- Since the answer to question b) will be “pass” what South would do after 4♥ if you had known that 3♥ was not natural?

DO NOT MAKE THE REVIEWER RE-POLL

CONDUCT A POLL:

- My poll shows that:
 - All bid 4♦ regardless
 - All passed
 - 8 passed and two doubled, which led to a further question: what would you bid as West after your partner doubles 4♦? (all passed)
 - If asked, you would have gotten unanimity for "Pass"

DO NOT MAKE THE REVIEWER WEIGHT

WEIGHT THE FINDINGS

- Bottom line, you come to a weighted score which is:
 - 4/5 of the times, NS -200, which translates into +9 IMPs
 - 1/5 of the times NS -500, which translates into +3 IMPs
 - $((4*9)+3)/5 = \text{NS} + 8 \text{ IMPs}$



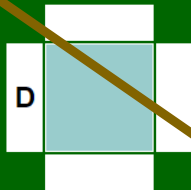
CASE 2:

*You are the TD at the World
Mixed Teams Final*

CASE 2: SOUTH/WEST

This is the auction West on lead saw and then defended. ie No alerts were made by South and a trump was led, ducked by declarer to the king and returned. The contract eventually drifted two off.

West sought a ruling on the basis that had he known South had a 2-suiter, he would have started with the Ace of diamonds, planning for South to lose control.

		N North		W	N	E	S
♠ Q632 ♥ AJ6 ♦ J875 ♣ 98				2♦ X P P	P 4♦ P P	3NT X X X	4♣ 4♥ P P
W West							
♠ 874 ♥ 10 ♦ AQ10962 ♣ Q106							
				4♥x S NS: 0 EW: 0			

EAST EVENTUALLY
SAW THIS
AUCTION:

NS STATED:

We have no agreement here, but
we do play leaping Michaels in
second seat and 4D says "Bid the
major".

And anyway, East West had plenty
of opportunities to switch to
diamonds and start the force.

N	North
♠	Q632
♥	AJ6
♦	J875
♣	98

W	N	E	S
2♦	P	3NT	4♣
X	4♦	X	4♥
P	P	X	P
P	P		

E	East
♠	AKJ9
♥	K543
♦	K43
♣	A5

Over a two level opening, a jump to the four level shows a two suited hand. The same applies to three level opening, though there no "leap". There are various versions, yet here is the original one: Over 2 or 3 ♦, 4 ♣ shows clubs and a major, over two or three in a major, 4 in a minor shows that minor and the other major., 4 ♦ shows both majors. Over 2 (precision style) or 3 ♣, 4 ♦ shows diamonds and a major while 4 ♣ shows both majors.

4♥x S NS: 0 EW: 0

THE TD GATHERED FACTS & DISCUSSED & DISCUSSED:

NS have no agreement in this situation, so, as we saw before, the TD should start from the same point: both East and West were misinformed.

Could West have self-protected?

The difference from the previous hand is that here East does not count.

57% Experts polled would have acted in a similar way to West with the alerts. But 43% would still lead a trump.

D

8

NNorth

♠Q632

♥AJ6

♦J875

♣98

WWest

♠874

♥10

♦AQ10962

♣Q106

EEast

♠AKJ9

♥K543

♦K43

♣A5

SSouth

♠105

♥Q9872

♦

♣KJ7432

W

N

E

S

2♦

P

3NT

4♣

X

4♦

X

4♥

P

P

X

P

P

P

4♥xS

NS: 0EW: 0

SO TO AVOID THE REVIEW:

THE SOLUTION COMES FROM A POINT WHICH SHOULD NEVER BE NEGLECTED,
AND IS THE SAME AS BEFORE: NS COULD NOT PROVE THEIR AGREEMENT.

- West is not required to know, or even try to guess the opponents' system.
 - If North and South give completely different explanations, unless one can prove otherwise the LAW is simple – err on the side of misexplanation NOT mistaken call.
 - West is entitled to act with full knowledge of the opponents' methods
- Nothing less than evidence from South presented alongside a statement like: *"I'm right – the call was not alertable BECAUSE..."*
 - will keep you from review unless you rule by LAW 75B
 - AND NEVER EVER DISREGARD WHAT YOUR EXPERTS SAY!! That is a grave mistake for a TD.

- The situation is simpler, but let's have a deeper look:

- NS did have an agreement on leaping majors (see the note), but that means they were using it in second position. Using it in fourth position, like here, is not common at all.
- Though South's cards correspond to a leaping Michaels, South did not alert it, and, in fact, she bid her longer suit (had she held a 55 we could have reasoned differently).
- West (no less than Geir Helgemo) had no reasons to ask about the auction, since all seemed perfectly logical, at least for such a player: 4♦ asked to pick a major, but not SOUTH's major! So, North had shown a big major two suiter (but read below).
- Actually, that was the main issue the TDs had to entangle: had West failed to protect himself? There was some doubt and some discussion but, ultimately, and after having consulted players of comparable level (not difficult, since there were a few world champions around playing Mixed Pairs), the decision went in favour of the non-offenders (as MUST be).

- Bottom line, we're again in a situation which requires a weighted score: I spare you the calculation, but please do it yourself as exercise.



CASE 3:

*You are TD for the World Open
Teams Qualification Stages*

DEALING WITH PLAY RULINGS -

We will see in the video now:

♠ J lead

3 rounds of trumps South pitching an ♦ 3 (encouraging).

♥ Q, Ace, then ♦ Q, K, A, 7.

♣ K, 6, 5, 2,

♦ J, 5, 8 (after some pause for thought), 2.

♣ A and continued

Result: Down 1.

Team EW had scored +130 in the other room (3 ♦ +1) so it won 1 IMP in the board.

D	4	N North		W N E S			
		♠ J109		1♠	X	2♠	P
		♥ A62		P	P		
		♦ Q84					
		♣ Q985					
W West		E East					
♠ AQ873		♠ K62					
♥ QJ3		♥ K874					
♦ 75		♦ K92					
♣ 643		♣ J102					
S South							
♠ 54							
♥ 1095							
♦ AJ1063							
♣ AK7							
				2♠ W	NS: 0 EW: 0		

DEALING WITH PLAY RULINGS -

At the end West summoned the TD pointing at North's BIT before following with the \heartsuit 8, and alleging it could have helped South in finding the winning defense, the alternative being trying to cash a third diamond instead of a third club.

<div> <div>4</div> </div>		N North \spadesuit J109 \heartsuit A62 \diamondsuit Q84 \clubsuit Q985	<table> <tr> <th>W</th><th>N</th><th>E</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr> <td>1\spadesuit P</td><td>X P</td><td>2\spadesuit P</td><td></td></tr> </table>	W	N	E	S	1 \spadesuit P	X P	2 \spadesuit P	
W	N	E	S								
1 \spadesuit P	X P	2 \spadesuit P									
W West \spadesuit AQ873 \heartsuit QJ3 \diamondsuit 75 \clubsuit 643		E East \spadesuit K62 \heartsuit K874 \diamondsuit K92 \clubsuit J102									
	S South \spadesuit 54 \heartsuit 1095 \diamondsuit AJ1063 \clubsuit AK7		2 \spadesuit W NS: 0 EV: 0								

THE TD

Forgot to give a ruling, and when reminded after the last round was unable to locate the North/South, so could not determine their bidding nor carding methods.

Polling in haste, the determination was no-one would lead a diamond, but all considered doing so.

<div> <div></div> <div>4</div> </div>		<div>N North</div> <div> <div>♠ J109</div> <div>♥ A62</div> <div>♦ Q84</div> <div>♣ Q985</div> </div>	<div>W N E S</div> <div> <div>1♠ X 2♠ P</div> <div>P P</div> </div>
<div>W West</div> <div> <div>♠ AQ873</div> <div>♥ QJ3</div> <div>♦ 75</div> <div>♣ 643</div> </div>			<div>E East</div> <div> <div>♠ K62</div> <div>♥ K874</div> <div>♦ K92</div> <div>♣ J102</div> </div>
	<div>S South</div> <div> <div>♠ 54</div> <div>♥ 1095</div> <div>♦ AJ1063</div> <div>♣ AK7</div> </div>		<div>2♠ W NS: 0 EW: 0</div>

CONSIDER

Could the TD make a decision with the information that was available?

If YES, that's easy - make a decision and giving a ruling. But if NO, then what should be done?

Is this a grey area?

Can we just forget about it and say it is too bad and leave it?

Should we make a decision anyway, and deal with the wrath if it happens?

What about apologising and giving an adjusted result where both are non-offenders?

Should we inform the scorer to wait while we follow up with the players?

Might we cancel the result and assign an artificial adjusted score?

HELLO NO!

Do NOT be lazy and assign 60%/60%.

DO your job and poll for the likely outcome given both scenarios.

DO remember to present ALL the information to your experts

DO check the co-relation between the infraction and the decision, NEVER assume it.

DO assign actual scores whenever possible to boards that have been played.

DO keep in mind that in such cases BOTH SIDES are innocent, thus both deserve the benefit of the doubt.

It's black & white

LAW **81C** *Director's Error*

Apologise and assign an adjusted result where both are non-offenders.

The correct ruling here would have assigned 2S making to EW and 2S -1 to NS