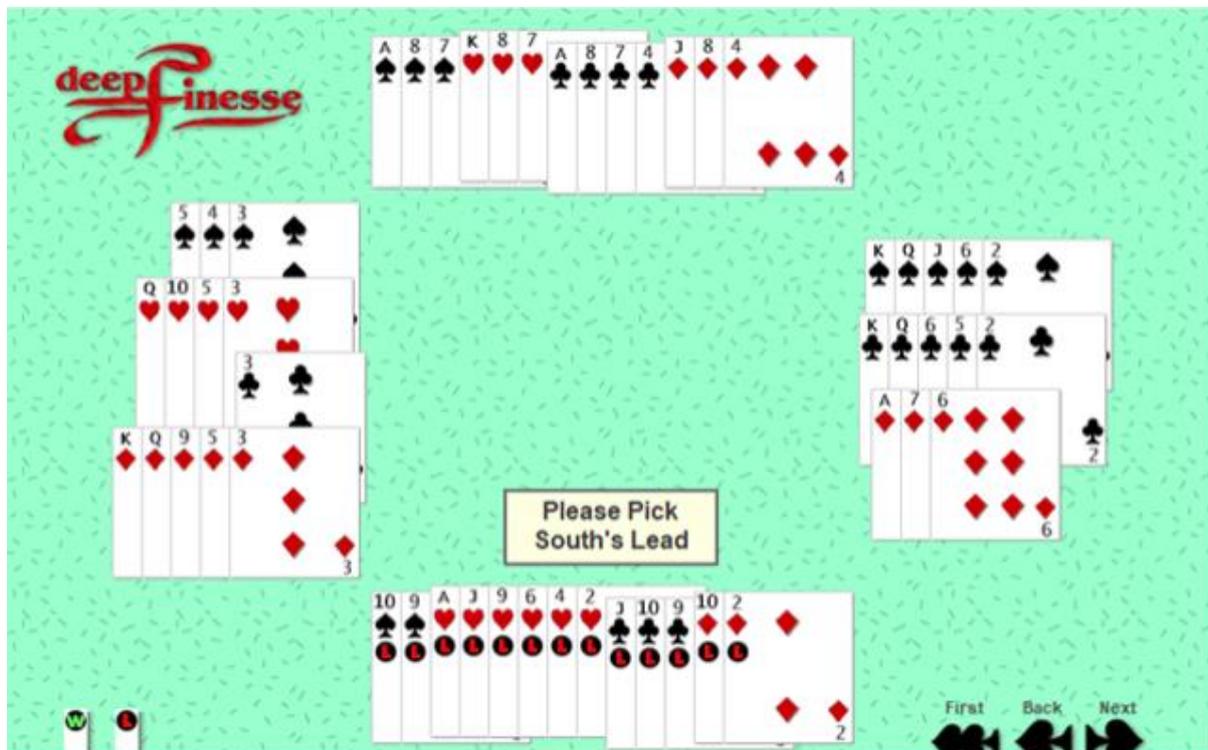




2019-2020 Season Ruling No 2



On the board above the bidding is as follows where a small 'a' denotes an alert.

N	E	S	W
1NT	X	2Ha	P
P	2Sa	3H	X
P	4H	P	5D
P	P	P	

The 2 Heart bid by South was alerted and described as 4(+)Hearts and 4(+) Spades.

The 2 Spade bid by East was alerted and described as forcing.

The NS convention card stated that after 1NT is doubled a redouble would show any five card suit but has no further information regarding defences to a double of 1NT.

EW played in 5D -1 but asked for a ruling on the basis that there had been an incorrect explanation of the 2 Heart bid. Without this explanation they believed that they would have reached a contract of 4S which would make despite there being only 21 high card points between the East and West hands.

An experienced County Director, was asked to rule.

The ruling and explanation is reproduced below.

Result 5D-1

Basis of Appeal: 2H was described as H + S and that explanation damaged EW who may have reached a 4S contract.

Partnership Agreement

We have to decide whether this is a case of Misinformation or Misbid after the 2H call.

Reference Blue Book (BB)

BB 2A1 All partnership understandings must be fully disclosed to opponents.

BB 2B3 A player should explain only the partnership understanding and not how the player intends to interpret it.

The convention card (CC) states that after 1N is doubled, a redouble would show any '5 card suit' but gives no further detail. However, at the table, after the hand, South said his 2H was just natural. North described the 2H bid as lower of two suits (H + S). In fairness, it is normal, that using redouble as a 5 card suit, any 2 level bid shows some combination of 2 (or 3 suiter) however this has not been explicitly stated on the CC.

So the real question here is what constitutes a partnership understanding?

The fact that North and South stated different agreements at the table suggests there was no real agreement even though there is a written meaning for the redouble on the CC. It is likely that North was certain that 2H had been agreed as showing H + S. However, it is also likely that South bid 2H as natural at the table (maybe thinking it showed a 6 (rather than 5) card suit? This is further confirmed by South's bid of 3H even having heard his partner's explanation (which was potentially UI for him)!

So on balance, I have decided that North and South did not have a proper demonstrable agreement hence there is Misinformation from North.

Ruling

We have to decide what would happen without this Misinformation. The likely continuations are that East bids 2S, West raises (freely or over 3H) and East passes or bids 4S. Alternatively, assuming South bids 3H and West doubles as in the actual auction, East now passes. (I have also taken some account of East/Wests failure to reach 4S in the actual auction)

Thus, I have split these possibilities proportionally as
40% East/West reach 4S, 30% East/West reach 3S, 30% North/South play in 3H doubled. Normal play yields 10 tricks in spades for EW and 7 tricks in hearts for NS.
The other room result was EW 3D+1 = 130.

EW in 4S 40% x 10 IMPs = 4
EW in 3S 30% x 1 IMP = 0.3
NS in 3Hx 30% x 5 IMPs = 1.5

Total 5.8 rounded to 6 Imps to the EW side