

**Donna Compton**

4744 Alta Vista Circle  
Dallas, TX 75229

[cdmra@mindspring.com](mailto:cdmra@mindspring.com)

tel. 214-394-5830 fax. 214-373-7955

October 6, 2013

Attention: Maurizio DiSacco, Georgia Heth,  
Gianarrigo Rona and Ernesto d'Orsi

Dear Mr. DiSacco,

On behalf of the 2013 d'Orsi Senior Bowl USA II team (Carolyn Lynch, Mike Passell, Marc Jacobus, Garey Hayden, Eddie Wold and Roger Bates), I formally request an inquiry by the WBF Disciplinary Committee regarding the alleged inappropriate communication between the German pair of Entschow Wladow and Michael Elinescu during the 2013 d'Orsi Senior Bowl held in Bali, Indonesia.

Separately, I have submitted a Formal Complaint including four exhibits of supporting evidence. I understand that this information is persuasive in nature in that USA II is an interested party. However, the WBF Monitor's written notes, eye witness accounts and video of the final 32 hands played in the match between USA II and Germany in the 2013 d'Orsi Senior Bowl Finals will confirm said alleged behavior.

Upon review of the evidence and determination of guilt, USA II respectfully requests that the Disciplinary Committee strip Germany of both their Gold Medals and Title as 2013 d'Orsi Senior Bowl World Champions and elevate USA II to said position.

If I may be of more assistance in this inquiry, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Truly yours,

*Donna Compton*

Donna Compton  
USA II NPC

## Formal Complaint

**2013 d'Orsi Senior Bowl USA II**  
**Carolyn Lynch, Mike Passell, Eddie Wold**  
**Roger Bates, Garey Hayden, Marc Jacobus**  
**NPC Donna Compton**

vs.

**2013 d'Orsi Senior Bowl Germany**  
**Team Members**  
**Specifically Entscho Wladow,**  
**& Michael Elinescu**

**October 4, 2013**

### **WBF Disciplinary Committee**

Chairman: Georgia Heth

Members: Jens Auken, David Harris, Mazhar Jafri, Ulrich Wenning

Prosecutor: Jeffrey Polisner

### **FACTS**

On Friday, September 29, 2013, the German NPC and USA II NPC Donna Compton met with Maurizio DiSacco to agree on seating rights for the Finals of the 2013 d'Orsi Senior Bowl. At that time, Compton requested a monitor to be placed on the pair of Entscho Wladow and Michael Elinescu based on observing unusual bidding and leads during the Quarter Finals against Indonesia and Semi Finals against France. Compton was told that a monitor could not be granted without further evidence of inappropriate communication between Wladow and Elinescu. Compton was also told that the pair had been extensively monitored in 2008 and 2009 to no avail. Compton reported this news to USA II and told them to focus on playing bridge.

On Saturday, September 30, 2013, Finals Day 1, Set 3 (FD1S3) Eddie Wold noticed that Wladow and Elinescu were coughing just at the beginning of the auction and at the end of the auction, but no time during auction or the play. This recognition prompted Wold to keep a tally on his convention card of the number of coughs by each player. (see Exhibit A). At the conclusion of FD1S3, Wold turned over his convention card to Compton and explained the markings. Compton met with Chief Director Max Baven and Championship Manager Maurizio DiSacco immediately following FD1S3. Compton showed Baven and DiSacco Wold's Convention Card ("WCC") and explained the markings as coughs by Elinescu and Wladow. WCC markings were enough "further evidence" to warrant a monitor. DiSacco granted a monitor and arranged for video of Wladow and Elinescu for the remainder of the Finals against USA II.

Compton entered the WCC markings into an excel spread sheet and compared opening leads and hand shapes to determine a potential coughing code. (see Exhibit B) Based on this code, Compton has further analyzed the 16 hands in FD1S3 (see Exhibit C) and FD2S5 (with video) (see Exhibit D) which is provided for your review. It is also the understanding of USA II that additional evidence of inappropriate communication between Wladow and Elinescu will be provided by the WBF monitor from FD2S5 and FD2S6.

**APPLICATION OF LAW 73 B**

Law 73 B Inappropriate Communication between Partners is the relevant law at hand. It states,

**LAW 73 - COMMUNICATION**

*B. Inappropriate Communication between Partners*

1. Partners shall not communicate by means such as the manner in which calls or plays are made, extraneous remarks or gestures, questions asked or not asked of the opponents or alerts and explanations given or not given to them.
2. The gravest possible offence is for a partnership to exchange information through prearranged methods of communication other than those sanctioned by these Laws.

The evidence of inappropriate communication between Elinescu and Wladow is indicated in the hand analysis from Final Day 1, Set 3, along with the hands from Final Day 2, Set 5 and 6 which were both videoed and monitored by witnesses provided by the WBF. Elinescu and Wladow sent cough signals of both their shortness during the auction, as well as, their desired opening lead once on defense. Based on the evidence provided in the attached exhibits, along with additional evidence provided by the WBF Monitor, the coughing signals by Elinescu and Wladow clearly exchanged information through pre-arranged methods of communication other than those sanctioned by the Laws of Duplicate Bridge.

**CONCLUSION & REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

Elinescu and Wladow agreed on a pre-arranged method of communication by coughing both their shortness during the auction and their desired opening lead on defense. This pre-arranged method of communication is in direct violation of Law 73 B (1) and (2) which is the gravest possible offence for a partnership. Based on the Olympic Charter Bye-Law 59.2.1. USA II requests that the Germany Team be stripped of their Gold Medals and World Championship Title for violation of Law 73B of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge by Elinescu and Wladow.

Furthermore, USA II requests that the Disciplinary Committee declare USA II the 2013 d'Orsi Senior Bowl World Champions and replace USA II's Silver Medals with Gold Medals.

**Exhibit B**

**World Convention Card Markings Compared to FD1S3 Hand Shapes and Opening Leads**

| Board # | N Coughs | N Pattern | S Coughs | S Pattern | Closed Room |     |      |        |      |     | USA | GER |  |
|---------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------|-----|------|--------|------|-----|-----|-----|--|
|         |          |           |          |           | Cont        | Ded | Lead | Tricks | NS   | EW  |     |     |  |
| 1       |          | 2434      | 5        | 1165      | 6♦          | S   | ♠A   | 12     | 920  |     |     |     |  |
| 2       | 2        | 5413      |          | 4333      | 4♠          | S   | ♠A   | 9      |      | 100 | 12  |     |  |
| 3       |          | 2443      |          | 2452      | 4♥          | S   | ♦A   | 11     | 450  |     |     |     |  |
| 4       | 1        | 3163      | 1        | 2434      | 4♥          | E   | ♠3   | 10     |      | 620 |     | 1   |  |
| 5       | 1,2      | 4450      | 1        | 3055      | 7NT         | E   | ♦3   | 12     | 50   |     |     |     |  |
| 6       |          | 3334      |          | 2254      | 5♦          | N   | ♠A   | 10     |      | 50  |     |     |  |
| 7       |          | 5233      |          | 2245      | 3♠          | S   | ♥A   | 10     | 130  |     |     |     |  |
| 8       | 2        | 6313      | 4        | 1462      | 2♠          | N   | ♥2   | 7      |      | 50  |     |     |  |
| 9       |          | 5224      | 1        | 2353      | 2♥          | W   | ♠8   | 7      | 100  |     |     | 7   |  |
| 10      |          | 4432      |          | 4243      | 2♠          | E   | ♥5   | 9      |      | 110 |     |     |  |
| 11      | 1        | 3451      |          | 3226      | 3NT         | W   | ♠2   | 10     |      | 430 |     |     |  |
| 12      | 1        | 2344      |          | 3352      | 4♠          | E   | ♠T   | 10     |      | 420 |     |     |  |
| 13      |          | 4432      | 2        | 5413      | 5♦x         | E   | ♠J   | 9      | 500  |     |     |     |  |
| 14      |          | 3334      | 3        | 5152      | 4♠x         | S   | ♥K   | 9      |      | 100 | 4   |     |  |
| 15      |          | 3253      | 2+       | 4351      | 5♦          | S   | ♥8   | 11     | 600  |     | 1   |     |  |
| 16      | 2        | 1363      |          | 4225      | 3♠x         | E   | ♠A   | 5      | 1100 |     |     | 12  |  |

Coughs at the beginning of the auction indicate shortness i.e. 1 cough is clubs, 2 coughs is diamonds etc.

No Coughs is balanced hand or semi balanced hand

Coughs at end of auction indicate which suit to lead i.e. 1 cough is clubs, 2 coughs, diamonds etc.

Brown highlight is opening leads. Yellow highlight is declarer hands.

## Exhibit C

### FD1S3 Hand Analysis Based on Wold Convention Card Markings

Wladow (North) and Elinescu (South) only cough at the beginning of the auction when they have a singleton or a void. The pair does not cough with balanced or semi-balanced hands unless when on opening lead. The following FD1S3 hand analysis is based on the Wold Convention Card markings (Exhibit A) and the excel shape/lead analysis (Exhibit B).

#### The Auction Cough Code for FD1S3

No coughs = balanced/semi-balanced hands

1 Cough = Club Shortness

2 Coughs = Diamond Shortness

3 Coughs = Heart Shortness

4 Coughs = Spade Shortness

#### The Opening Lead Cough Code

1 Cough = Club Lead

2 Coughs = Diamond Lead

3 Coughs = Heart Lead

4 Coughs = Spade Lead

FD1S3 Bd. #1

### Board 1. Dealer North. None Vulnerable.

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p>♠ K Q</p> <p>♥ A K J 7</p> <p>♦ J 4 2</p> <p>♣ Q 8 6 5</p> | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">N</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">W</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">E</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">S</span> </div> | <p>♠ J 7 5 2</p> <p>♥ T 9 6 5 3 2</p> <p>♦ 9 6</p> <p>♣ T</p> | <p>♠ A T 9 8 6 3</p> <p>♥ Q 8</p> <p>♦ Q 7</p> <p>♣ J 4 2</p> |
| <p>♠ 4</p> <p>♥ 4</p> <p>♦ A K T 8 5 3</p> <p>♣ A K 9 7 3</p> |   |   |   |

Wladow (S) coughs 5 times at the beginning of the auction. This does not follow the code exactly. Perhaps indicating spade shortness and some other shortness?

FD1S3 Bd. #2

**Board 2. Dealer East. N-S Vulnerable.**

|             |             |               |  |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|--|
|             | ♠ J 7 6 5 2 |               |  |
|             | ♥ J 9 8 4   |               |  |
|             | ♦ 3         |               |  |
|             | ♣ Q J 2     |               |  |
| ♠ 9 8 3     | N           | ♠ T           |  |
| ♥ K 5       | W           | ♥ A 7 3 2     |  |
| ♦ J 6 5     | E           | ♦ Q T 9 8 4 2 |  |
| ♣ A 6 5 4 3 | S           | ♣ 9 8         |  |
|             | ♠ A K Q 4   |               |  |
|             | ♥ Q T 6     |               |  |
|             | ♦ A K 7     |               |  |
|             | ♣ K T 7     |               |  |

| East        | South         | West           | North           |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Wold</b> | <b>Wladow</b> | <b>Passell</b> | <b>Elinescu</b> |
| Pass        | 2NT           | Pass           | 3♣              |
| Pass        | 4♣            | All Pass       |                 |

At the beginning of the auction, Elinescu (N) coughed 2 times indicating a diamond singleton or void. At the end of the auction, Eddie Wold (E) questioned Wladow about his 4♣ bid. His response was oh, I thought I had responded 3♣ and my partner had passed me out. A bit of an usual response since Wladow had written 4♣ in his convention card.

FD1S3 Bd. #3

**Board 3. Dealer South. E-W Vulnerable.**

|             |             |           |  |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|--|
|             | ♠ A Q       |           |  |
|             | ♥ Q 6 5 2   |           |  |
|             | ♦ T 9 6 4   |           |  |
|             | ♣ A T 8     |           |  |
| ♠ T 7 6 5 3 | N           | ♠ K J 4 2 |  |
| ♥ 9 8 4     | W           | ♥ T 3     |  |
| ♦ A         | E           | ♦ 5 3 2   |  |
| ♣ 7 6 5 4   | S           | ♣ K Q 3 2 |  |
|             | ♠ 9 8       |           |  |
|             | ♥ A K J 7   |           |  |
|             | ♦ K Q J 8 7 |           |  |
|             | ♣ J 9       |           |  |

No coughs by either player indicating balanced and/or semi balanced hands. The North/South pair was the declaring side so there were no coughs for the opening lead.

FD1S3 Bd. #5

**Board 5. Dealer North. N-S Vulnerable.**

|               |   |             |
|---------------|---|-------------|
| ♠ K 2         | ♠ J T 6 4   | ♠ A Q 9 8   |
| ♥ A K 7 2     | ♥ T 6 5 3   | ♥ Q J 9 8 4 |
| ♦ K           | ♦ Q J 9 6 4   | ♦ A 7       |
| ♣ A K 7 4 3 2 | ♣ -   | ♣ J 9       |
|               | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">N</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">W</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">E</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">S</div> </div> |             |
|               | ♠ 7 5 3   |             |
|               | ♥ -   |             |
|               | ♦ T 8 5 3 2   |             |
|               | ♣ Q T 8 6 5   |             |

The auction is not on the BBO lin file but it went similarly to the auction in the Open room where West was in 7♥ and Elinescu (N) coughed one time indicating a club lead. Then West converted to 7NT and Elinescu (N) coughed two times indicating a diamond lead. A diamond was ultimately led by Wladow (S). Ironically, the BBO viewgraph commentator said, "Too bad we will never know which suit S would have led." Based on the coughing code, however, Wladow (S) would have gotten it right!

FD1S3 Bd. #6

**Board 6. Dealer East. E-W Vulnerable.**

|           |   |             |
|-----------|---|-------------|
| ♠ 9 7 2   | ♠ T 5 4   | ♠ A K J 8 3 |
| ♥ Q J T 9 | ♥ A 5 2   | ♥ 8 6 4 3   |
| ♦ Q T 5 3 | ♦ K 8 7   | ♦ J         |
| ♣ 7 2     | ♣ J 8 6 3   | ♣ T 9 5     |
|           | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">N</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">W</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">E</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">S</div> </div> |             |
|           | ♠ Q 6   |             |
|           | ♥ K 7   |             |
|           | ♦ A 9 6 4 2   |             |
|           | ♣ A K Q 4   |             |

No coughs were indicated on this board. North and South were balanced/semi-balanced were the declaring side as well.

FD1S3 Bd. #7

**Board 7. Dealer South. All Vulnerable.**

|             |  |           |
|-------------|--|-----------|
|             | ♠ A K J 7 6  |           |
|             | ♥ 8 4  |           |
|             | ♦ A 5 3  |           |
|             | ♣ A 8 2  |           |
| ♠ Q T 8 3   | <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">             N<br/>W     E<br/>S           </div> | ♠ 9 2     |
| ♥ A K 9 6 3 |  | ♥ J 7 5 2 |
| ♦ J 9       |  | ♦ K 8 7 2 |
| ♣ Q 5       |  | ♣ 7 6 3   |
|             | ♠ 5 4  |           |
|             | ♥ Q T  |           |
|             | ♦ Q T 6 4  |           |
|             | ♣ K J T 9 4  |           |

No coughs were indicated on this board. North and South were balanced/semi-balanced were the declaring side as well.

FD1S3 Bd. #8

**Board 8. Dealer West. None Vulnerable.**

|             |  |           |
|-------------|--|-----------|
|             | ♠ A Q J 9 7 5  |           |
|             | ♥ 8 6 5  |           |
|             | ♦ 9  |           |
|             | ♣ K 9 2  |           |
| ♠ T 8 4     | <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">             N<br/>W     E<br/>S           </div> | ♠ K 6 2   |
| ♥ A Q 9     |  | ♥ J 7 2   |
| ♦ T 5       |  | ♦ K Q 4 2 |
| ♣ J 8 7 6 3 |  | ♣ A T 5   |
|             | ♠ 3  |           |
|             | ♥ K T 4 3  |           |
|             | ♦ A J 8 7 6 3  |           |
|             | ♣ Q 4  |           |

At the beginning of the auction, Elinescu (N) coughed two times indicating diamond shortness while Wladow coughed four times indicating spade shortness.



FD1S3 Bd. #9

**Board 9. Dealer North. E-W Vulnerable.**

|               |  |           |
|---------------|--|-----------|
|               | ♠ K 8 6 4 2  |           |
|               | ♥ Q 4  |           |
|               | ♦ 7 6  |           |
|               | ♣ Q 8 7 2  |           |
| ♠ Q J 5       | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">             N<br/>W     E<br/>S           </div> | ♠ T 9 7   |
| ♥ K J 9 8 7 5 |  | ♥ A T     |
| ♦ K 9         |  | ♦ A Q 8 4 |
| ♣ 6 5         |  | ♣ J T 4 3 |
|               | ♠ A 3  |           |
|               | ♥ 6 3 2  |           |
|               | ♦ J T 5 3 2  |           |
|               | ♣ A K 9  |           |

Bd. #9 is an example of coughing for an opening lead. West was declarer in 2♥ and Wladow coughed one time at the end of the auction to indicate a club lead. The ♠7 was led.

FD1S3 Bd. #10

**Board 10. Dealer East. All Vulnerable.**

|           |  |               |
|-----------|--|---------------|
|           | ♠ Q 9 4 2  |               |
|           | ♥ K 9 4 3  |               |
|           | ♦ T 8 2  |               |
|           | ♣ A 6  |               |
| ♠ 8 6 5   | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">             N<br/>W     E<br/>S           </div> | ♠ K T         |
| ♥ J T 8 2 |  | ♥ A Q 6       |
| ♦ K Q J 5 |  | ♦ 7 4         |
| ♣ Q 9     |  | ♣ K J 7 5 3 2 |
|           | ♠ A J 7 3  |               |
|           | ♥ 7 5  |               |
|           | ♦ A 9 6 3  |               |
|           | ♣ T 8 4  |               |

No coughs were indicated on this board. North and South were balanced/semi-balanced on both hands and were the declaring side as well.

FD1S3 Bd. #11

**Board 11. Dealer South. None Vulnerable.**

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>♠ A 3<br/>♥ 8 7 5<br/>♦ A Q J 6 4<br/>♣ K 6 5</p> | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="width: 100%; height: 100%; background-color: black; color: white; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">N</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">W</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">E</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">S</span> </div> </div> | <p>♠ Q 8 2<br/>♥ A J T 3<br/>♦ K T 9 5 3<br/>♣ 2</p> | <p>♠ K J T 6 4<br/>♥ K 9 6 2<br/>♦ 8<br/>♣ A Q 8</p> |
|  |   | <p>♠ 9 7 5<br/>♥ Q 4<br/>♦ 7 2<br/>♣ J T 9 7 4 3</p> |  |

Elinescu (N) coughed one time indicating a club singleton or void. Wladow did not cough indicating a balanced or semi-balanced hand.

DF1S3 Bd. #12

**Board 12. Dealer West. N-S Vulnerable.**

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>♠ K 4 3<br/>♥ Q J T 8<br/>♦ A 3<br/>♣ K 7 4 3</p> | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="width: 100%; height: 100%; background-color: black; color: white; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">N</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">W</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">E</span> <span style="margin-bottom: 5px;">S</span> </div> </div> | <p>♠ 9 8<br/>♥ A 5 4<br/>♦ J T 9 4<br/>♣ Q J 5 2</p> | <p>♠ A J 7 5 2<br/>♥ K 9 7<br/>♦ 8 6<br/>♣ A 9 8</p> |
|  |   | <p>♠ Q T 6<br/>♥ 6 3 2<br/>♦ K Q 7 5 2<br/>♣ T 6</p> |  |

Bd. #12 is an example of an opening lead cough. Declarer (E) was in 4♠ and Elinescu (N) coughed one time indicating a club lead. The ♣10 was led instead of the normal ♦K which was the lead at all of the other tables playing the hand.

DF1S3 Bd. #13

**Board 13. Dealer North. All Vulnerable.**

|               |   |             |                   |
|---------------|---|-------------|-------------------|
|               |   | ♠ A 9 4 3   |                   |
|               |   | ♥ K 8 7 3   |                   |
|               |   | ♦ 9 3 2     |                   |
|               |   | ♣ 6 5       |                   |
| ♠ 2           |   |             | ♠ Q 8 6           |
| ♥ J T 5 4 2   | W | N           | ♥ -               |
| ♦ 7           |   | E           | ♦ A K Q J T 8 5 4 |
| ♣ K Q 8 7 3 2 |   | S           | ♣ 9 4             |
|               |   |             |                   |
|               |   | ♠ K J T 7 5 |                   |
|               |   | ♥ A Q 9 6   |                   |
|               |   | ♦ 6         |                   |
|               |   | ♣ A J T     |                   |

Elinescu (N) did not cough indicating a balanced or semi-balanced hand. Wladow (S), however coughed two times indicating a diamond singleton or void.

DF1S3 Bd. #14

**Board 14. Dealer East. None Vulnerable.**

|           |   |             |             |
|-----------|---|-------------|-------------|
|           |   | ♠ K 9 3     |             |
|           |   | ♥ T 8 4     |             |
|           |   | ♦ 9 7 6     |             |
|           |   | ♣ 9 5 4 3   |             |
| ♠ 6 4 2   |   |             | ♠ J T       |
| ♥ K Q J 2 | W | N           | ♥ 9 7 6 5 3 |
| ♦ K Q 8 2 |   | E           | ♦ T         |
| ♣ 8 7     |   | S           | ♣ A K Q J 6 |
|           |   |             |             |
|           |   | ♠ A Q 8 7 5 |             |
|           |   | ♥ A         |             |
|           |   | ♦ A J 5 4 3 |             |
|           |   | ♣ T 2       |             |

Elinescu (N) did not cough indicating a balanced or semi-balanced hand. Wladow (S), however, coughed three times indicating a heart singleton.

**Board 16. Dealer West. E-W Vulnerable.**

|               |               |                 |  |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--|
|               | ♠ J           |                 |  |
|               | ♥ A 8 5       |                 |  |
|               | ♦ A J T 7 4 2 |                 |  |
|               | ♣ Q 8 2       |                 |  |
| ♠ 8           | N             | ♠ A T 7 6 4 3 2 |  |
| ♥ J T 9 4 3 2 | W     E       | ♥ K Q           |  |
| ♦ Q 8         | S             | ♦ 6 5 3         |  |
| ♣ J 9 7 3     |               | ♣ T             |  |
|               | ♠ K Q 9 5     |                 |  |
|               | ♥ 7 6         |                 |  |
|               | ♦ K 9         |                 |  |
|               | ♣ A K 6 5 4   |                 |  |

Bd. #16 is an example of unusual bidding by S. N opened 2NT showing either both minors or a 6+-card diamond suit and 11-14 HCP. E passed. S responded 3♣ which according to the N/S convention card is p/c. When asked by E, S explained the 3♣ bid as p/c while holding 15 HCP. W passed. N corrected to 3♦. E bid 3♣ thinking the auction is about to die in 3♦ and that his partner has the points sitting in S's hand. 3♣ is doubled and set 4. The director was called. S was questioned as to why he made a non-forcing bid with 15 HCPs and his partner had shown him 11-14 HCP with the opening bid. His response was that he "knew" his partner had diamonds and was going to bid over 3♦ and he would take it from there.

This is the report for session 5 and 6 of the match GERMANY-USA2 seniors in the last Bermuda Bowl in Bali. I was asked to be the BBO operator at that table in order to discover if the pair ELINESCU (E)-WLADOW (W) was using a secret and preagreed way of exchanging information. A detailed description board per board will follow, but I want first to explain the three main signals that the pair sends during the auction:

1) Type: one way (W → E)

Information: rough description of the strenght of the hand

When: before the auction starts

How: different way of touching the tray before the auction starts (note that W always looks quickly at the cards while the screen is still open)

2) Type: two way (W → E very clear, E → W uses a “smarter” approach)

Information: shortness (singleton or void)

When: during the auction

How: coughing a certain number of times (1=clubs, 2= diamonds, 3=hearts, 4=spades; they both seem to use 1+1 instead of 3 in many occasions)

3) Type: two way

Information: strong lead suggestion

When: at the end of the auction

How: coughing to ask a specific suit to be led (same as 2)

About signal 1: not touching the tray or waving the hand means very weak hand (compared with the video: boards 2-5-7-9-12); grabbing it shows a opening hand (compared with 1,6,8,11). There is still something undisclosed about the strength of the hand and the information sent by touching the board but not the tray (10,15,16)

About signal 3: there is a variation here, when the player on lead has to decide between two possible leads he coughs one of the two and in case of no answer leads the other (board 29). A big number of coughs followed by the suit asks the lead in that suit even during the auction. (board 11 and 21).

This is the report of the 32 boards I was following (video available at <http://new.livestream.com/accounts/5339416/WBTC-Bali> for the first 16)

Board 1 W: tray hold (OK, opening) E:1+1 (OK, H sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 2 W: no touch (OK, very weak) E:0 (OK, no sing) W: 4 (OK, S sing)

Board 3 E:0 (opponent opened 1S, his sing, and he preempted, - smarter way here, no need to show the sing when the suit is not playable for his side because of the bidding) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 4 E:0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 5 W: no touch (OK, weak hand) E: 1+1 (OK, H sing) W:0 (OK, no sing)

Board 6 W: tray hold (not clear) E:0 (OK, no sing) W:1 (OK, C sing)

Board 7 W: waving (OK, weak hand) E: 1+1 (OK, H sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 8 W: tray hold (OK, opening) E: 0 (OK, no sing) W (2+2, OK, S sing; here is clear from the video that W needed to give a fast information to his partner before he could bid, so he choose a 2+2... remember that 4 coughs are always difficult to be dissimulated. Here there is a probable example about how to recover from wrong/unclear signals... speaking about health loudly... this is needed because it might happen that one needs to cough naturally)

Board 9 W: pull and push after closing (OK, medium hand) E:0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 10 W: pull and push of the tray after closing (OK, medium hand) W: 2 (OK, D sing) E: 1 delayed (OK, H sing after D sing shown by p). Note here that E is doubtful about which singleton to

show (they probably cannot show to have two) and so he decides to wait his partner bid to then show his H sing (critical for the board). The final W 4S bid explains how powerful their methods are, since he can guess from the auction that partner hasn't so many clubs and so he must have a certain number of spades and diamonds, thus allowing a rather safe 4S gamble.

Board 11 W: pulling tray (OK, opening) E: 0 (OK, no sing) W (5+4 before lead OK, asking for a spade lead)

Board 12 W: waving (OK, weak hand) E:2 (OK, D sing) W:4 (OK, S sing)

Board 13 W: tray hold (OK, opening) E:1+1 (OK, S sing) W: many, late (S values?)

Board 14 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 15 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 16 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 1 (OK, C sing) W also has a H sing

From here on there is no video support so I report what i saw being the BBO operator but there is no other proof of it

Board 17 E: 0 (D sing NOT OK) W probably decided not to show his stiff A as a sing at the beginning and after 1N by E, the auction was under control; W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 18 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 19 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 20 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 21 W: 6+4 after 1H (OK, asking for a spade lead)

Board 22 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 23 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 24E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 25E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 26 E:0 (S sing, I might have missed it) W:1 (OK, C sing)

Board 27 E: 2 (OK, D sing) W: 4 (OK, S sing) here over 5C BATES allowed W to change 6S to 5D without calling director.

Board 28 E: 2 (OK, D sing) W: 4 (OK, S sing)

Board 29 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing) W before lead 4. My guess is that this is an asking signal about leading spades. Having got no answer he switched to clubs. This is the only case for the player on lead to cough.

Board 30 E: 1 (OK, D sing) W: 1+1 (OK, H sing)

Board 31 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing) W before the lead:1 (asking for C lead, OK)

Board 32 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

This is all I could collect during the play (I couldn't get the tray signal for the second part, since it was clear that W was looking at the cards beforehand but in that moment I didn't figure out which was the exact way of signalling.