

APPEAL NABC+ SEVEN
 Subject: Alleged Allowing for a Psych
 DIC: Putnam
 Event: Vanderbilt KO Teams
 Session: Round of 16, April 5, 2006

Board #3		Boye Brogeland	
Vul: E/W		♠ T 8 4 3	
Dlr: South		♥ J 2	
		♦ A T 9 6 5 4	
		♣ Q	
	Nagy Kamel		Greg Hinze
	♠ A 5 2		♠ Q 6
	♥ K 8 6 3		♥ A 9 4
	♦ Q		♦ J 8 7 3
	♣ K J 9 6 3		♣ A 5 4 2
		Rita Shugart	
		♠ K J 9 7	
		♥ Q T 7 5	
		♦ K 2	
		♣ T 8 7	

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♣	1NT	Dbl	Pass
Pass	2♦	Dbl	All Pass

The Facts: 2♦, doubled, made two for a score of +180 N/S. The director was summoned after the lead on the next board. N/S were +41 IMPs at the end of the second set (the previous one). The play went ♠6 to the ♠J and ♠A; ♣J to the ♣Q and ♣A; another club, ruffed; draw trumps and claim.

The Ruling: The director ruled that the table result stands.

The Appeal: E/W called the director because they had a problem with South not redoubling the double of 1NT. South stated that she had never played with Brogeland before (save for a pair game) and was not sure what a redouble would mean after the 1NT overcall.

The Decision: There was no concealed partnership understanding or history of psyching discovered. E/W were caught by a well-timed psyche. The table result stands.

Dissenting Opinion (Barry Rigal and Bruce Rogoff): The only issue was merit. While the Committee could see why West might be unhappy with his opponents' actions, he should have been aware that N/S were not a practiced partnership. Although North had indicated that a redouble by South would have been to play, it was clear in committee that this was inference rather than partnership agreement. N/S were a new partnership up 41 IMPs at the end of the previous set. South was the less experienced member of the partnership. To try to force South to redouble in a position where 1NT doubled was near optimal was quixotic. E/W should have known better. They should at least have withdrawn the appeal in screening or in committee when the facts became obvious.

The Committee: Barry Rigal (Chair), Jeff Aker, Dick Budd, Bruce Rogoff and Ron Gerard.

Commentary:

Gerard Yes, the dissenters are correct. I plead guilty, but even one more vote for no merit wouldn't have been enough.

Goldsmith I agree with the dissent. AWMW earned. What difference would a redouble have made anyway? North would still have pulled to 2♦, and after the psych is revealed, East is still doubling 2♦. So what if dummy has roughly an 8-count?

Polisner I agree with the dissenter that an AWMW was appropriate.

Rigal My dissent is not on a major point, but I'd like to see the NAC taking a harder line on merit. The nature of the appeal was so flimsy that it deserved a greater punishment than it got. N/S were not just a virtually first-time partnership, North is a super-star and South temperamentally a catcher, not a pitcher. The whole appeal was very distasteful, to my mind.

Wildavsky I agree with the dissent -- this appeal had no merit.

Wolff I agree with the ruling since psychs are allowed and they definitely should be. Why would one say that South was the less experienced player in the partnership since Rita and a good team have been playing at least half as long as Boye Brogeland has been alive? The aggravating thing to E/W probably stems from their thought that North was taking advantage of South's possible reticence to get involved. However, nothing that N/S did could be criticized. Two questions: 1) Why is it an inclination by committees to protect Rita? and 2) Why wasn't E/W given an AWMW?

Zeiger Much heat has been generated by this case. We certainly are paranoid souls. I don't buy any of it. E/W had zero case. Fill out a player memo if you like, but don't waste a Committee's time.
I wouldn't redouble either. The vulnerability suggests if anybody is psyching, it's partner, 41 IMP lead notwithstanding. Why expose it? Surely East realized North had psyched after the 2♦ bid. Why didn't he just bid 3NT? Maybe he thought partner had psyched vulnerable against not. Funny, really.