



DEUTSCHER BRIDGE-VERBAND E.V.

## Press release of May 28, 2014

### Summary from the viewpoint of the German Bridge Federation of information on the allegations made against the pair of Dr. Wladow – Dr. Elinescu, and the decisions reached by the Disciplinary Commission of the World Bridge Federation

#### **1. The decision made by the World Bridge Federation (WBF)**

In a Hearing of the WBF Disciplinary Commission on March 21 and 22, 2014 in Dallas, Dr. Michael Elinescu and Dr. Entscho Wladow were found guilty of having contravened, at the Word Championships in Bali, § 73 B of the Laws of Bridge.

The decision in English is available at:

<http://www.bridge-verband.de/picture/doc/4154>

The videos used as evidence have been published in YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/livebridgewebcam1/Videos>.

#### **2. Temporary injunction issued by the Arbitration and Disciplinary Panel of the German Bridge Federation (GBF)**

On the basis of the decision reached by the WBF Disciplinary Commission on March 23, 2014, the Disciplinary Attorney of the GBF filed, on March 31, 2014, an application for temporary suspension with the Federation's Arbitration and Disciplinary Panel.

The GBF's Arbitration and Disciplinary Panel complied with this application on April 7, 2014 in accordance with § 19, Para. 7, of the GBF Statutes.

To summarize: the playing ban encompasses

1. Team competitions organized by the GBF at national and international levels, and
2. Tournaments organized by the GBF in accordance with the definition stated in § 2, Nos.1 to Nr. 5 of the Federation's Tournament Code at present in force (2008 version).

The ban is explicitly for the duration of the appeal proceedings within the WBF and until the appeal committee has come to a decision on the findings of the WBF's Disciplinary Commission dated March 31, 2014. The ban applies to the two players, both individually and as a pair.

### **3. Application for a Temporary Injunction filed with the County Court of Cologne, Germany**

At the middle of April, 2014, the attorney engaged by Dr. Wladow and Dr. Elinescu filed an application for the issue of a Temporary Injunction against the GBF. The aim of this injunction was to rescind the decision and the suspension by the GBF. At the end of April, the Cologne County Court decided, after duly considering the various interests, in favor of the GBF.

The decision is not yet final.

### **4. Report by the GBF Commission**

At the beginning of April the GBF's Executive Committee convoked a commission to investigate the allegations. The commission drew up a detailed report. A summary of the report's findings is given below:

The alleged coughing code corresponds without any doubt with the coughing to be heard on the video and the boards in question. The commission concludes that there was agreement in this regard between Dr. Wladow and Dr. Elinescu, and endorses in this respect the decision reached by the WBF's Disciplinary Commission.

With regard to the alleged coughing code for a certain lead, there are too few relevant hands in the video. On most of the hands, no coughing can be heard for a lead.

The hands investigated by the GBF's commission do not explicitly prove that unauthorized information was regularly exchanged for a certain lead. However, there are conspicuously many hands on which an unusual lead was made. The result of these unusual leads was much more often successful than not.

This report was submitted by the commission to the GBF's Executive Committee and explained during an Extraordinary Meeting called by the GBF's Executive and Advisory Committees at the beginning of May.

The sweeping movements and the various treatments of the tray can clearly be seen in several hands. It is possible that an exchange of hand strength was conveyed, but this cannot be explicitly proved.

There is no hand with regard to which it can be said that the action taken is inconceivable and must be attributable to unauthorized information. However, there are a great number of hands on which the unusual actions taken would be more plausible if a knowledge of partner's hand is assumed.

On the assumption that the statements made by the U.S. players, tournament directors and BBO operators with regard to the non-video-recorded hands are correct, the GBF commission is, after considering all the hands involved, 100% convinced that unauthorized information was exchanged. Even if only the 14 hands from the available video are considered, the commission is still 100% convinced that information as to "shortage" or "balanced" was exchanged on every one of these 14 hands.

In view of the report, item 4 of the GBF's letter of March 12, 2014 to the WBF Disciplinary Commission can be considered no longer to apply. At the time the letter was written, the evidence which had been provided did not, in the opinion of the GBF's Executive Committee, confirm the suspected reprehensible conduct.

Further, Dr. Wladow and Dr. Elinescu have unequivocally assured the GBF's Executive Committee that the allegations made against them are unfounded.

### **5. Decisions made by the Extraordinary Meeting of the GBF's Executive and Advisory Committees**

Both Executive and Advisory Committees unanimously decided in view of the commission's report to authorize the GBF's Disciplinary Attorney, Mr. Christian Schwerdt, to conduct investigations and if need be to apply to the GBF's Arbitration and Disciplinary Panel to initiate own proceedings.

The GBF's appeal to the WBF is maintained for the time being. It is important for the GBF's Executive Committee to continue to be involved as (an interested) party to the proceedings.

In particular, this will facilitate the flow of information and enable GBF representatives to take part in hearings.

Cologne, May 28, 2014

Executive Committee of the German Bridge Federation