

Report on a case of possible violation of Law 73B, occurred in Bali during (at least) the Final of the d'Orsi Senior Bowl

Ghezzano (PI) Italy – October 29th 2013

Attention: Georgia Heth - Chairman of the WBF Disciplinary Committee
Ernesto d'Orsi - Chairman of the WBF Championships Committee
Gianarrigo Rona - WBF President

Facts:

Before the start of the Final, at the end of the choice for seating rights, I was approached by Mrs. Donna Compton, Captain of the USA II team. Mrs. Compton, raising suspicions about the German pair Wladow-Elinescu, requested a monitor to be present throughout the match at the Germans' table. Mrs. Compton could not provide any evidence to support her request, other than unspecified "rumors" about a couple of hands from the quarter final match Germany-Indonesia. A monitor is quite invasive and can easily cause annoyance and stress to the players patently subjected to it. Since the evidence given was far than conclusive, I did not grant the request. I did, however, tell Mrs. Compton that I was ready to make arrangements for a monitor if any further evidence was presented.

The following day, at the end of the third segment, Mrs. Compton requested a private meeting with Mr. Max Bavin (WBF Head TD) and me. At the meeting, she presented handwritten notes by Mr. Wold, USA II playing member, which pointed at the fact that there seemed to be some link – however unspecified at that moment – between Wladow-Elinescu's coughing and the leads. Even though far from conclusive, the evidence was, in our opinion, good enough to grant a monitor. After consultation with Mr. d'Orsi, I duly granted the monitor to be present at the Germans' table for the remainder of the match.

In order to make the monitoring as discreet and evasive as possible, I arranged for one of my assistants, Mr. Manolo Eminenti, to be the BBO operator at Wladow-Elinescu's table and for a camera to record the entire action of play. Both procedures were done to lower suspicions. Mr. Eminenti had already performed BBO operator duties a few times during the championship (for other reasons); and, in fact, once at that Germans' table. Additionally, a camera was placed at one or two tables every round, and twice previously at Wladow-Elinescu's table. Since Wladow-Elinescu were not fielded in the fourth segment, the surveillance started with segment five.

At the end of segment five, I met with Mr. Eminenti, who had taken notes during the segment. He expressed, in his opinion, that signals had been exchanged through coughing. Mr. Eminenti also stated he had been able to break the code of three different signals: 1) Mr. Wladow always picked his cards from the pocket while the screen's aperture was still open, and then made different gestures according to his hand's strength. 2) Coughing at the beginning of the hand signaled shortness (no coughs when there were neither singletons nor voids); and 3) Whenever the pair was defending, the coughs signaled the opening lead. Mr. Eminenti's notes corroborate his findings. Producing further notes, Mr. Eminenti confirmed his opinion at the end of the sixth segment. I then asked Mr. Eminenti to produce a detailed report, which is included with this report, and informed Mr. d'Orsi and Mr. Rona of the findings.

Eventually, I contacted Mr. Traian Chira (WBF online broadcasting coordinator in Bali, and owner of www.livebridge.net, the website where the camera recordings were published) to arrange

for all the video recordings regarding Wladow-Elinescu to be grouped, and made available for official inspection. Those videos are also included with this report.

Just before The Cavendish, where I knew Wladow-Elinescu would be participating, I asked Mr. Bertrand Gignoux, WBF Chief TD, to discretely monitor the pair. Mr. Gignoux was the TD in Bali on duty in the room where Wladow-Elinescu were playing, and the only official to incidentally have some knowledge of the facts other than the ones mentioned before, and was told to keep total secrecy. Mr. Gignoux's report is also included with this report.

As requested, I submit this report, being ready to answer any further question, and/or any requests for clarification.

Faithfully yours,

Maurizio Di Sacco
WBF Championships Manager