

Missing Card

Question

The contract is 3SX by North. East leads CA. Dummy goes down with only 12 cards showing, but no one notices. There is a singleton club in dummy. East does not continue with CK as it could be ruffed in dummy.

Four or five tricks from the end of play of the hand another club is found in dummy. There has not been a revoke. East calls the director and states that he would have played another club if the second club was displayed.

However, if another club had have been played it would be ruffed by North as he held a singleton club. 3S was made by most other N/S. The Director rules 3S X making. Is this correct?

Answer

Dummy's responsibility to spread his hand is described in Law 41D. If dummy fails to do so and the defenders are disadvantaged, the director can award an adjusted score under Law 12A1. Therefore, if East had played another club in the situation you described and this would have defeated the contract, then the director would have awarded an adjusted score of 3SX, down one. However, it appears that the fact that dummy had a card hidden was irrelevant to the play of the hand. If the director is sure that this is the case, he should allow the score to stand.

Question

When following to the 13th trick a player finds themselves without a card. The missing card was found as played on a previous trick. How is this situation dealt with?

Answer

The solution is found in Law 67B2. The director first determines which was the defective trick. That is, the one on which the offender played an extra card. An unfaced card to that trick is deemed to have belonged continuously to the player's hand. Therefore if the player has failed to follow suit in the denomination of the unfaced card, the relevant revoke penalties will apply. If the director is unable to determine which card was actually faced on the defective trick, it is assumed that the highest legally playable card was played to the trick and the other card becomes the extra card, subject to possible revoke penalties.

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