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Dear Gianarrigo Rona,

My legal experience with Law 73B with regards to the Italian pair of Andrea Buratti and Massimo Lanzarotti gives me particular insight with this case. The reputation of the partnership of Michael Elinescu and Entschö Wlaldo (“The Doctors”) precedes itself. Rumors have been circulating about this pair for decades. The Daily Bulletin in Bali described the Doctor’s bidding as “eccentric”. In my pre-tournament team wrap-up, I told my team that Germany was a dangerous team because of The Doctors and their “unusual methods” – Little did I know.

When the top 8 teams were determined for the KO Stage, I began following The Doctor’s results verses Indonesia and France in the vugraph room and online. The commentators continuously talked about The Doctor’s unusual jumps to good contracts and spot-on leads. Foreseeing the potential of playing The Doctors in the Finals, I began analyzing their hand patterns and opening leads in an effort to find a pattern and break their code.

When Germany advanced to the Finals verses USA II, I requested a monitor on The Doctors for potential 73B violations at the Captain’s meeting. I was told that the WBF had watched The Doctors during 2008 and 2009 and found nothing unusual and; therefore, my request for a monitor was declined until I could provide evidence which would justify a monitor. I was disappointed with this response to my request; but I also knew that I had to get my players’ heads in the game if we had a chance of winning the Gold.

I returned to my team and told them that my request for a monitor was denied and in the WBF’s opinion, The Doctors were not doing anything in violation of Law 73B. My players trusted me and went into the Finals confident that USA II would win. I could tell my players had doubts and I continued my analysis of The Doctor’s boards in the round robin phase. I began to notice that unusual jumps were occurring by the partner of the unbalanced hand. It was obvious that there was information being conveyed for their opening leads based on the comparison, but without eye witnesses or video, it was impossible to determine their methods.

Prior to the start of the Finals, many players from all around the world came up to my team advising us to pay attention to the tray movement, the way they close the screen, the way they placed their bidding cards and played their cards. I knew their methods did not involve any of these suggestions because the WBF would have discovered these methods during the 2008, 2009 investigation. I was, however, keen on whether or not The Doctors coughed during the auction or prior to the opening lead from my previous experience with the Italians.

Day 1, The Doctors sat out Segment 1. At the end of Segment two, my players were clearly distracted by the thought that The Doctors were violating Law 73D. At the end of Segment 3, there was the infamous Board 16 director's call against The Doctors in which the only way USA II could win the ruling was if the director's found that The Doctors were in violation of Law 73D. This hand is written up in the attached hand analysis reports. Board 16 alone was a potential gain of 20imps for USA II. While the directors were discussing board 16, Roger Bates made a quip remark "Man, those guys sure do cough a lot." At that moment, Eddie Wold presented me with his convention card with markings of the boards on which The Doctors coughed and how many times they coughed. I immediately presented Wold's Convention Card to the Director in Charge and the Tournament Manager and explained my suspicious and again requested a Monitor for Day 2.

USA II's dinner conversation was consumed with ways to interfere with The Doctor's coughing – Offering them cough drops, coughing when they coughed, confronting them directly with our suspicions. I worked through the night comparing the hand shapes and opening leads with the cough marks on Wold's Convention Card – Ultimately decoding their methods and presenting further evidence to the WBF officials. Prior to Segment 4, I was informed that The Doctor's would be monitored for the remainder of the match. I was also instructed to keep everything quiet so that evidence could be collected against The Doctors. This meant telling my team to pretend like nothing was happening. The Doctors sat out Segment 4. At the beginning of Segment 5, Garey Hayden requested that I watch The Doctors. He was clearly distracted. I explained to him that The Doctors were being monitored by video and eye witness and he appeared to calm down and went to play. The added pressure playing against a pair my players knew were cheating added to the huge negativity at the table. Can you imagine playing a match in which every time your opponent coughed you knew you were being cheated?

At the end of Segment 5, I believe the WBF had enough evidence to sit The Doctors out of Segment 6 but there was no time to hold an official hearing. Again, my players wanted to confront The Doctors and make them stop coughing. Again, we were told to play bridge and good would win out. Unfortunately, Garey Hayden and Roger Bates were more than unhappy having to play under these circumstances. Mike Passell and Mark Jacobus were equally distracted at the other table. In the end, between the Doctors 73D violations and my players being completely distracted by the conditions under which they were forced to play, USA II lost by 11. I was actually taken aback when Jose Damiani approached me at the closing ceremony and said, "Your team played particularly poorly to lose the Gold." Really? I'm not sure anyone could play through the adversity with which my players were faced in this match.

In the Netherlands, my team lost the Gold to France by 1 point. I didn't have any of the feelings that I have had losing by 11 to The Doctors. My team feels the same way especially since The Doctors actions swung many more than 11 imps for their team. In fact, in the attached "Lost Imp" hand analysis, you will find 123 potential imps swung on The Doctor's violation of Law 73D.

Three months later and my players and I are still obsessed with the thought that we lost the Gold Medal and World Title because The Doctors violated Law73D. This is very personal to me because I trusted the WBF to protect my team and didn't allow my players to take matters into

their own hands and confront The Doctors at the beginning of Segment 5. The moment for USA II is gone. We will never have the American Flag hanging behind us as we stand on the podium or hear the National Anthem playing while our medals are hung around our necks. However, there is still justice to be served. And the only way justice will be served and good will win out is if Germany is stripped of the Gold and USA II pronounced the 2013 d'Orsi Senior Bowl Champions. Eventually, this scandal will go viral. Hopefully, the title of the post will be USA II awarded Gold after German stripped of their title.

I look forward to hearing your decision in the near future.

Truly Yours,

*Donna Compton*

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NPC, USA II 2013 d'Orsi Senior Bowl