

This is the report from session 5 and 6 of the ~~_match~~-GERMANY-USA2 seniors' match in the last Bermuda-d'Orsi Bowl in Bali. I was asked to be the BBO operator at that table in order to discover if the pair ELINESCU (E)-WLADOW (W) was using a secret and pre--agreed way of exchanging information. A detailed description board ~~--byper--~~ board will follow, but I want to first ~~to~~ explain the three main signals that the pair sends during the auction:

1) Type: one way (W → E)

Information: rough description of the strength~~th~~ of the hand

When: before the auction starts

How: different ways~~s~~ of touching the tray before the auction starts (note that W always looks quickly at the cards while the screen is still open)

2) Type: two way (W → E very clear, E → W uses a “smarter” approach)

Information: shortness (singleton or void)

When: during the auction

How: coughing a certain number of times (1=clubs, 2=diamonds, 3=hearts, 4=spades; they both seem to use 1+1 instead of 3 ~~ion~~ many occasions)

3) Type: two way

Information: strong lead suggestion

When: at the end of the auction

How: coughing to ask for a specific suit to be led (same as 2)

About signal 1: not touching the tray or waving the hand shows ~~ameans~~-very weak hand (compared with the video: boards 2-5-7-9-12); grabbing the tray~~th~~ shows an opening hand (compared with 1,6,8,11). There is still something undisclosed about the strength of the hand and the information sent by touching the board but not the tray (10,15,16).

About signal 3: there is a variation here, when the player on lead has to decide between two possible leads he coughs one of the two and in case of no answer, he -leads the other (board 29). A big number of coughs followed by the suit asks the lead in that suit even during the auction. (boards 11 and 21).

This is the report of the 32 boards I was following (video available at <http://new.livestream.com/accounts/5339416/WBTC-Bali> - for the first 16)

Board 1 W: tray hold (OK, opening) E:1+1 (OK, H sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 2 W: no touch (OK, very weak) E:0 (OK, no sing) W: 4 (OK, S sing)

Board 3 E:0 (opponent opened 1S, his sing, and he preempted, - smarter way here, no need to show the sing when the suit is not playable for his side because of the bidding) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 4 E:0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 5 W: no touch (OK, weak hand) E: 1+1 (OK, H sing) W:0 (OK, no sing)

Board 6 W: tray hold (not clear) E:0 (OK, no sing) W:1 (OK, C sing)

Board 7 W: waving (OK, weak hand) E: 1+1 (OK, H sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 8 W: tray~~h~~ hold (OK, opening) E: 0 (OK, no sing) W (2+2, OK, S sing; here it is clear from the video that W needed to give ~~a~~-fast information to his partner before he could bid, so he ~~cho~~se a 2+2... remember that 4 coughs are always difficult to be dissimulated. Here there is a probable example about how to recover from wrong/unclear signals... speaking about health loudly... this is needed ~~bec~~ause it might happen that one needs to cough naturally)

Board 9 W: pull and push after closing (OK, medium hand) E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 10 W: pull and push of the tray after closing (OK, medium hand) W: 2 (OK, D sing) E: 1 delayed (OK, H sing after D sing shown by p). Note here that E is doubtful about which singleton to

show (they probably cannot ~~two singletons show to have two~~) and so he decides to wait for his partner to bid to and then show his H sing (critical for the board). The final W 4S bid explains how powerful their methods are, since he can guess from the auction that partner doesn't have hasn't so many clubs and so he must have a certain number of spades and diamonds, thus allowing a rather safe 4S gamble.

Board 11 W: pulling tray (OK, opening) E: 0 (OK, no sing) W (5+4 before lead OK, asking for a spade lead)

Board 12 W: waving (OK, weak hand) E:2 (OK, D sing) W:4 (OK, S sing)

Board 13 W: tray hold (OK, opening) E:1+1 (OK, S sing) W: many, late (S values?)

Board 14 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 15 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 16 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 1 (OK, C sing) W also has a H sing

From here on there is no video support so I report what i saw being the BBO operator but there is no other proof ~~of it~~

Board 17 E: 0 (D sing NOT OK) W probably decided not to show his stiff A as a sing at the beginning and after 1N by E, the auction was under control; W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 18 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 19 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 20 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 21 W: 6+4 after 1H (OK, asking for a spade lead)

Board 22 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 23 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 24 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 25 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

Board 26 E:0 (S sing, I might have missed it) W:1 (OK, C sing)

Board 27 E: 2 (OK, D sing) W: 4 (OK, S sing) here over 5C BATES allowed W to change 6S to 5D without calling director.

Board 28 E: 2 (OK, D sing) W: 4 (OK, S sing)

Board 29 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing) W before lead 4. My guess is that this is an asking signal about leading spades. Having got no answer he switched to clubs. This is the only case for the player on lead to cough.

Board 30 E: 1 (OK, D sing) W: 1+1 (OK, H sing)

Board 31 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing) W before the lead: 1 (asking for C lead, OK)

Board 32 E: 0 (OK, no sing) W: 0 (OK, no sing)

This is all I could collect during the Segment 6 play (I couldn't get the tray signal for ~~the second part segment 6~~; ~~since it~~ was clear that W was looking at the cards beforehand, but ~~at~~ ~~in~~ ~~that~~ time moment, I didn't ~~figure out~~ know which was the exact way-meaning of signalling.