

2016 Summer NABC Appeals Casebook



Subject of Appeal: Misinformation	Case: N1
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Event	von Zedtwitz LM Pairs	Event DIC	Harry Falk
Date	07/22/2016	Session	First Qualifying


Auction

West	North	East	South
			Pass
2♣	2♥	3♣ ¹	4♥
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Explained as 4 Controls

Hand Record

Board	27	N	Jan Jansma		
Dealer	S	♠	J94		
		♥	KJ5432		
Vul	None	♦	843		
		♣	4		
W	Jeffrey Juster			E	Martin Fleisher
♠	AQ873			♠	K2
♥	108			♥	Q7
♦	AKQ2			♦	J107
♣	AQ			♣	KJ7532
		S	Jay Borker		
		♠	1065		
		♥	A96		
		♦	965		
		♣	10986		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
4♥X by N	Down 4	E/W +800	

Facts Determined at the Table

West's explanation of East's 3♣ bid as four controls (Ace=2, King=1) was misinformation. The actual partnership agreement was "natural and positive". The director was called at the end of the hand, which was the first legal time to do so, as E/W were on defense. South told the director that he would not have bid 4♥ if he had known 3♣ was natural.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

Seven players with similar masterpoint holdings to South were polled. Five players said they would pass with either set of information; the other two said they would bid 3♥ with either set of information.

Director Ruling

There was no evidence that South's call would be different without the misinformation; therefore, the score was not adjusted per Laws 21B3.

Director's Ruling	4♥X by N, Down 4, E/W +800
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The Appeal

N/S requested a review of the ruling as they felt the poll results were invalid. South says he is a stronger player than his masterpoints might suggest. He cited results in NABC+ events to make his case.

The reviewer conducted a new poll of NABC champions. Seven players were polled. Five players said that they would never bid 4♥ or that it could never be right. One suggested that 4♥ might be right, but if it were, he would do it with

either set of information. One said he could see choosing from among Pass, 3♥ and 4♥; moreover, he felt he would be inclined to be less aggressive on the information in the correct explanation.

Panel Findings

The review panel considered the new poll results and how to apply them. They felt that while there was evidence to support South's argument, it was from a minority of one. The majority not only considered the action chosen at the table to be poor, they felt the misinformation did not affect their own decision. Therefore, the panel felt there was not sufficient reason to change the table result.

Experts Consulted: Rich DeMartino, Adam Grossack, Zack Grossack, Dan Korbel, Michael Seamon, Aaron Silverstein and Kit Woolsey

Panel Decision	4♥X by N, Down 4, E/W +800
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Matt Koltnow
Advisor	Matt Smith

Subject of Appeal:	Disputed Claim	Case:	N2
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Event	von Zedtwitz LM Pairs	Event DIC	Harry Falk
Date	07/22/2016	Session	Second Qualifying

Auction

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

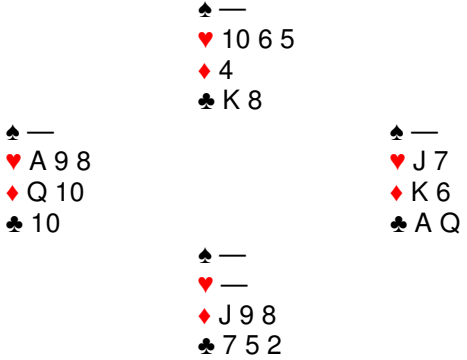
Hand Record

Board	19	N	Ron Smith		
Dealer	S	♠	K987		
		♥	K1065		
Vul	E/W	♦	754		
		♣	K8		
W	Atul Rai			E	James Masilamani
♠	Q32			♠	A
♥	AQ982			♥	J73
♦	Q102			♦	K63
♣	106			♣	AQJ943
		S	Oren Kriegel		
		♠	J10654		
		♥	4		
		♦	AJ98		
		♣	752		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
3NT by W			♠ 7

Facts Determined at the Table

After seven tricks (opening lead won by dummy's ace, losing heart finesse, ♦A and four more spade tricks), South was on lead in the following position:



West claimed stating that "if the hearts break, I have the rest." North noted that hearts are 3-0, accepting West's claim of five tricks. North pointed out that six tricks would always have been available on a squeeze. West called the director

Director Ruling

Per Law 70D1, the director ruled that he could not accept from West any successful line of play not embraced in the original claim/clarification statement (the squeeze) if there is an alternative normal line of play that would be less successful. West's line of play was deemed to include cashing winning tricks, ending with a losing heart at trick 13. The claim was resolved as five tricks to declarer and one trick to the defense for down three, N/S +150

Director's Ruling	3NT by W, Down 3, N/S +150
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The Appeal

East/West requested a review of this ruling. They felt there was no way West would play the hand which would not result in taking all six tricks, as it would be more than careless or inferior to play clubs before playing other suits (breaking up the squeeze).

Panel Findings

The Reviewer spoke with an expert player to gauge the likelihood that declarer would misplay the remaining position (by playing clubs or not noticing a heart discard by North on the play of diamonds, for instance). The expert judged the likelihood was nil. Law 68B1 defines a claim of some tricks as a concession of the remainder. Declarer's statement was a claim of five or six tricks, dependent on the heart distribution. In this case, it was a claim of five and a concession of one. Law 71 says that a concession must stand, except that the director shall cancel a concession if a player has conceded a trick that could not be lost by any normal play of the remaining cards. The panel was convinced that this was the case and canceled the concession of one trick, changing the result to 3NT by West, down two, N/S +100.

Expert Consulted: Dan Korbel

Panel Decision	3NT by W, Down 2, N/S +100
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Matt Koltnow
Member	Gary Zeiger
Member	Jenni Carmichael

Subject of Appeal: Misinformation	Case: N3
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Event von Zedtwitz LM Pairs	Event DIC Harry Falk
Date 07/22/2016	Session Second Qualifying


Auction

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♦ ¹	Dbl
1♥ ²	Dbl	Pass	1♠
Pass	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Could be short, <15 HCP
2: Relay to ♠, No Alert

Hand Record

Board	20	N	Brian Howard
Dealer	W	♠ 1093	
		♥ K1098	
Vul	Both	♦ 107	
		♣ AJ52	
W	John Miller		
♠	Q852		
♥	63		
♦	Q865		
♣	Q86		
		S	Jim Foster
		♠	AK76
		♥	Q54
		♦	92
		♣	K974
		E	Michael Bodell
		♠	J4
		♥	AJ72
		♦	AKJ43
		♣	103

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
3♦ by E	Down 1	N/S +100	♦ 2

Facts Determined at the Table

At the end of the auction, West announced the failure to alert 1♥ as a relay to spades, and the director was called. South was offered a chance to change his final pass, but he declined. He further said he would not have bid 1♠ if he knew 1♥ showed spades. North said that if he had known 1♥ showed spades, he might have bid 2♣ rather than double.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

Three players were polled. Several auctions were discussed, including considering South's decision after 1♥ – Dbl – Pass and North's bid after 1♥ with the information that it showed spades. Staff found that these auctions inevitably led to either East or West being able to compete to 3♦.

Director Ruling

The player polls showed that with the correct information, the auction still resulted in a 3♦ contract. As such, the score was not adjusted; 3♦ would be reached via a different auction. (Laws 21C3, 40B4)

Director's Ruling	3♦ by E, Down 1, N/S +100
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The Appeal

North/South requested a review of the ruling. They asserted that over a 1♥ bid showing spades, North would bid 2♥ to try to keep E/W from finding their known (to North) diamond fit. They suggested a final contract of 2♥ would be reached, and that eight tricks would be scored

Panel Findings

The reviewer had another poll conducted. First, two players were given the North hand with the correct information. Both bid 2♥. Five players were given the West hand. They accepted the 1♥ bid (although some thought Pass to be a better choice). None bid over 2♥—Pass—Pass. Therefore, per Laws 21C3, 40B4, and 12C1c, the reviewer changed the contract and result to 2♥ by North, making two, N/S +110.

Experts consulted: Due to the late hour, players were consulted from the Life Master Pairs who were not necessarily of expert level.

Panel Decision

2♥ by N, Made 2, N/S +110

Panel Members

Reviewer	Matt Koltnow
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Subject of Appeal:	Inadvertent Call	Case:	N4
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Event	Truscott Senior Swiss	Event DIC	Ken Horwedel
Date	07/25/2016	Session	First Qualifying

Auction

West	North	East	South
	3♥	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

Hand Record

Board	25	N	Howard Parker		
Dealer	N	♠ 98762	♥ Q109864		
Vul	E/W	♦ (void)	♣ 95		
W	Ed Lazarus			E	Richard Baum
♠	J104			♠	AKQ
♥	A72			♥	KJ5
♦	10952			♦	AKQ3
♣	1086			♣	Q32
		S	Marjorie Michelin		
		♠	53		
		♥	3		
		♦	J8764		
		♣	AKJ74		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
3NT by E			♣ 7

Facts Determined at the Table

Declarer won the opening lead with the ♣Q. He played two rounds of diamonds, followed by three rounds of spades. South pitched the ♥3 on the third round of spades. Declarer next led the ♥5 of hearts and called for a low heart from dummy, correcting it to the Ace. The director was called. East/West maintain that the correction was made very quickly. North/South contend that Dummy made a face and even touched the Ace before the correction was made.

Director Ruling

Law 45C4 states that a card must be played if a player names or otherwise designates it, allowing a change only if done "without pause for thought". Law 46B states that the designation "low" or words of like meaning, indicate play of the lowest card of the suit led, unless "declarer's different intention is incontrovertible." The director ruled that declarer, planning on winning in dummy and leading a low heart back to take the marked finesse, got a trick ahead of himself when he called small. That means the designation 'small' was intended, and the small heart was deemed to be the played card. Declarer took seven tricks for down two.

Director's Ruling	3NT by E, Down 2, N/S +200
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The Appeal

E/W requested a review of the ruling. They spoke to the review and maintained that declarer changed his designation to the Ace "immediately", adding that it was clear that declarer was planning on winning the Ace, so it was illogical to play low.

Panel Findings

Under current ACBL appeal procedure, the ruling is assumed to be correct unless an error (such as in procedure or in application of Law) has been made. There was no evidence the Director missed facts or made an illegal ruling. The ruling was upheld. The appeal was found to have no merit, and an Appeal without Merit Warning was issued.

Panel Decision	3NT by E, Down 2, N/S +200
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Kevin Perkins
Advisor	Matt Smith

Subject of Appeal:	Mechanical Error	Case:	N5
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Event	Truscott Senior Swiss	Event DIC	Ken Horwedel
Date	07/25/2016	Session	Second Qualifying


Auction

West	North	East	South
1♥	1♠	(1♠ ¹)1NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Insufficient

Hand Record

Board	32	N	Bill Dinner		
Dealer	W	♠	QJ1075		
		♥	8		
Vul	E/W	♦	1085		
		♣	KJ96		
W	Carole Craig			E	Margaret Coe
♠	K6			♠	A982
♥	AK1042			♥	73
♦	A9			♦	QJ643
♣	A874			♣	102
		S	Gary Helman		
		♠	43		
		♥	QJ965		
		♦	K72		
		♣	Q53		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
1NT by E	Made 3	E/W +150	

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was called when the second 1♠ bid was made. East was saying she made a mechanical error before the TD reached the table. The director took East away from the table and asked whether she had seen and registered North's 1♠ bid. She said that she had. N/S told the director that East bid 1♠ almost immediately after North bid 1♠.

Director Ruling

ACBL Bid Box regulations put the onus on the player to convince the director a mechanical irregularity has occurred. The director considered the tempo of the auction, East's statement, and the East hand itself. He concluded that East had intended to bid 1♠. Because 1♠ was insufficient, he offered South a chance to accept it. South did not accept 1♠; East was required to substitute any legal bid or pass, barring partner. She chose 1NT. (Laws 25A, 85A, 27B)

Director's Ruling	1NT by E, Made 3, E/W +150
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The Appeal

East/West requested a review of the ruling. They reiterated that their version of the facts was accurate. They also questioned why the director asked what he asked, as he apparently gave no weight to the answers to his questions.

Panel Findings

Under current ACBL appeal procedure, the ruling is assumed to be correct unless an error (such as in procedure or in application of Law) has been made. While some may conclude differently, there was no evidence the director had missed facts or made an illegal ruling. As such, the ruling was upheld.

Panel Decision	1NT by E, Made 3, E/W +150
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Matt Koltnow
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Subject of Appeal:	Unauthorized Information	Case:	N6
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Event	Truscott Senior Swiss	Event DIC	Ken Horwedel
Date	07/26/2016	Session	First Final


Auction

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT ¹	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Alerted

Hand Record

Board	6	N	Margot Hennings
Dealer	E	♠ J75	
		♥ QJ2	
Vul	E/W	♦ A942	
		♣ K87	
W	Martin Rabinowitz		
♠	98		
♥	A763		
♦	QJ5		
♣	J1063	E	Rick Rowland
		♠	Q6432
		♥	105
		♦	K87
		♣	A42
		S	Paul Janicki
		♠	AK10
		♥	K984
		♦	1063
		♣	Q95

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
3NT by S	Made 3	N/S +400	♠ 9

Facts Determined at the Table

East/West called the director at the end of the hand. After the hand, they had asked for an explanation of the Alert, and were told it forced 3♣ as a signoff. They claimed the UI from the alert of the 2NT bid made it clear to North that it would be better to bid over 3♣ than pass. North/South claimed the unusual nature of the 3♣ bid would make it clear to North to bid.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

Six players were polled to determine the meaning of 3♣ in an auction where 2NT is natural. All indicated that it would show a hand with clubs and a doubt about notrump. Six players were given the North hand and auction and asked what they would do over 3♣. Four passed and two bid 3NT

Director Ruling

Based upon the player poll, bidding 3NT was a logical alternative suggested by the UI. Per Laws 16B and 12C1c, the contract was adjusted to 3♣ by South, down 3, E/W +150.

Director's Ruling	3♣ by S, Down 3, E/W +150
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The Appeal

N/S requested a review of the ruling. Meeting with N/S, the reviewer determined that they had recently changed their methods. The meaning of 2NT was changed from natural to the artificial bid as described at the table.

The reviewer polled players about the meaning of 3♣ in the auction. Answers similar to those of the initial poll were given. Two further questions were asked. First, had anyone ever had any experience with this auction, either in their partnership or by opponents. No one had ever seen anyone bid 3♣ in this auction. Second, if your partnership had recently started playing 2NT as a puppet to 3♣, how likely would the 3♣ bid wake you up that you had forgotten and bid 2NT natural. The answer to this was overwhelmingly affirmative. Many said they would have questioned in the poll earlier whether they have any conventional agreements, except that they were told it was natural.

Panel Findings

A player in North's position, who had no reason to believe 3♣ was anything but natural, would be constrained by the UI and be expected to pass. The auction itself is authorized information, and a player facing this non-systemic bid would reexamine the auction and their agreements. The player poll suggested that for such a player, pass would not be a logical alternative. With no grounds to adjust the score, the table result of 3NT by South, making 3, NS +400, was restored.

Panel Decision

3NT by S, Made 3, N/S +400

Panel Members

Reviewer	Kevin Perkins
Advisor	Matt Smith

Subject of Appeal:	Misinformation	Case:	N7
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Event	Spingold Knockout Teams	Event DIC	Matt Smith
Date	07/27/2016	Session	Round of 32, Second Session


Auction

West	North	East	South
	1♥	2♣	2♥
Dbl ¹	4♥	Pass	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: 10+ HCP, No Alert

Hand Record

Board	29	N	Mustafa Cem Tokay		
Dealer	N	♠	AKQ7		
		♥	KJ10642		
		♦	(void)		
Vul	Both	♣	974		
W	Hua Poon			E	Choon Chou Loo
♠	42			♠	53
♥	875			♥	3
♦	AK106543			♦	QJ2
				♣	AJ108652
		S	Antonio Sementa		
		♠	J10986		
		♥	AQ9		
		♦	987		
		♣	Q3		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
5♦ by W	Down 1	N/S +100	

Facts Determined at the Table

By agreement, West's double shows any hand of 10+ HCP; any other bid denies 10 HCP. Video recording of this match showed that West made no Alert. East (screenmate to North) made a gesture, pointing to the bid shortly after the tray was passed and as North was bidding. There was no discernable acknowledgement that North had seen any Alert by East. North claimed that had he been Alerted to the meaning of the double, he would have bid 2♣. South would know of the double fit and compete successfully to the five level, rather than defend 5♦.

Director Ruling

East/West's agreement of the double is a low-level double showing values, which the Alert chart defines as "competitive." As such, it does not rise to the level of highly unusual or unexpected, and therefore does not require an Alert.

Director's Ruling	5♦ by W, Down 1, N/S +100
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The Appeal

North/South requested a review of the ruling. Their argument was that the hand held by West would never be expected by players. To them, that meant that this agreement is so odd it rises to the level of highly unusual or unexpected.

Panel Findings

The ACBL Alert procedures have admittedly vague guidelines in defining the Alertability of doubles. Further defining them would quickly produce an unmanageable list or many caveats and exceptions. Law 40 defines partnership understandings and gives redress to a side damaged as a consequence of its opponents' failure to explain their agreements as required by Law and regulation (our Alert procedures). The review staff had two tasks: 1) trying to find out how unusual or unexpected the agreement by E/W was, to determine its Alertability; and 2) try to determine whether there was damage as a consequence of not having this information.

If the double was Alertable, and failure to Alert it damaged N/S, then the score needed to be adjusted. Polling was conducted, giving players the North hand and the auction up to the double. Players were asked what they believed was an expected meaning of the double.

Players consistently said that, with this being a classic responsive double situation, four or more spades was an expectation. Some were asked if any other holdings might be expected; some volunteered other meanings without prompting. One player polled commented that a European trend in doubles (ones that might be taken as having more rigid shape requirements in the U.S.), is to be less rigid, more off-shape, and with hands simply with values, possibly at least 10 points.

Next, if the use of the double showing values had yet to be mentioned, players were asked whether the use of the double in this manner was odd or unexpected. One player thought that this might be a good way to play. Others said that they didn't think it would be that unusual for the double to have fewer than four spades, suggesting some hands with support may start with a double.

Players were asked about the effect of screens on the expected responsibility of players to Alert or ask about bids. The overwhelming consensus was that the use of screens makes the issue of disclosure very different from non-screen use. ACBL screen procedure strongly encourages the players to ensure the opponents understand their auction. By the same token, since asking questions behind screens does not generate UI, players feel much less constrained about asking the meaning of the opponents' auction. Many felt it was incumbent on themselves to ask the meaning of the double if the answer would have any bearing on their call.

Next, the players were asked what call they would consider, and whether the meaning of the double had any impact on the decision. A majority bid 4♥. Of those that considered other options, many made a game try, opting for 3♣ or 3♦, depending on partnership method. A few did bid 2♠, because in their methods, they would bid suits where they had values. Those who did reiterated that they certainly would ask for the meaning of the double. Two of them felt that the answer would not likely affect their decision; the other felt that knowing the double showed values rather than spades made 2♠ marginally more attractive.

Other players were asked about the possibility of bidding 2♠. Some thought the bid was a poor choice. A few thought it might a good bid if they ended up defending, in order to suggest a spade lead. Many said that the idea of introducing spades was misguided if an attempt to try to play in spades. Finally, all the players were shown the West hand; they were all amused or surprised to see West's actual holding

The review panel, in consultation with the Director in Charge, thought that expert testimony suggested that the E/W agreement about this double was not highly unusual or unexpected and therefore not Alertable. While play behind screens gives both sides greater latitude to Alert more calls and ask about more calls than they would across the table, there is no requirement to Alert a call not otherwise defined as Alertable. Similarly, while players behind screens are not required to ask more questions than they might across the table, they are still required to protect themselves. Since the double did not require an Alert, Law 40B4 does not apply and the result was allowed to stand.

Experts Consulted: Bart Bramley, Bartosz Chmurski, Geir Helgemo, Justin Howard, Nick Jacob, Ralph Katz, Eric Kokish, Nick Nickell, Johan Sylvan, Piotr Tuczynski, Federic Wrang

Panel Decision	5♦ by W, Down 1, N/S +100
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Kevin Perkins
Advisor	Matt Koltnow

Subject of Appeal:	Misinformation	Case:	N8
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Event	Wernher Open Pairs	Event DIC	McKenzie Myers
Date	07/28/2016	Session	First Final


Auction

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♣ ¹	2NT ²	Pass	3♥
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Strong, Artificial, Forcing
2: Minors

Hand Record

Board	19	N	David Birnbaum		
Dealer	S	♠ 9	♥ Q5	♦ AKQ1086	
Vul	E/W	♣ KJ97			
W	David Sabourin			E	Shan Huang
♠ AK863	♠ J10752				
♥ AKJ9	♥ 1082				
♦ 32	♦ 7				
♣ AQ				♣ 10832	
		S	Art Lowen		
		♠ Q4			
		♥ 7643			
		♦ J954			
		♣ 854			

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
3♥X by S	Down 5	E/W +1100	♠ A

Facts Determined at the Table

East attempted to alert the 1♣ bid. East/West maintain that the alert card was also used. North/South were adamant that no alert card was seen. During the auction, North was concerned that his partner was not aware of the alert, and called the director, who, away from the table, informed North that he should bid as if his partner heard the alert.

Director Ruling

The ACBL Alert Procedures put the burden on the alerting side to ensure the opponents are aware of an alert. South's declaration that he was not aware of the alert indicates that he was not properly informed. Polling showed that the likely result with the right information would be 5♦X by South, down 2. N/S were damaged due to the misinformation (Law 21C), and so, per Law 12C1c, the score was adjusted to 5♦X by South, down, E/W +300.

Director's Ruling	5♦X by S, Down 2, E/W +300
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The Appeal

E/W requested a review of the ruling. The reviewer talked with both the North/South pair and the East/West pair. North claimed that East's alert was "very soft and kind of in my direction" and "my partner is hard of hearing". South maintained that there was no indication that he received that the 1♣ was alertable. West insisted that East always uses the alert card. East felt that he had fulfilled his obligations, and that South was inattentive.

Panel Findings

Under current ACBL appeal procedure, the ruling is assumed to be correct unless an error (such as in procedure or in application of Law) has been made. There was no evidence the Director missed facts or made an illegal ruling, so the ruling was upheld. The appeal was found to have no merit and an Appeal without Merit Warning was issued.

Panel Decision	5♦X by S, Down 2, E/W +300
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Kevin Perkins
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Subject of Appeal:	Unauthorized Information	Case:	N9
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Event	Freeman Mixed BAM	Event DIC	Matt Koltnow
Date	07/28/2016	Session	First Final

Auction

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1NT ¹
2♣ ²	2NT ³	3♠	Dbl
Pass	4♣	Pass ⁴	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Hand Record

Board	9	N	Joe Quinn		
Dealer	N	♠ 6	♥ 102		
Vul	E/W	♦ J863	♣ A98742		
W	Justin Howard			E	Alison Hunt
♠	AQ1072			♠	J985
♥	Q9643			♥	AK7
♦	K10			♦	754
♣	10	S	Shawn Quinn	♣	J65
		♠	K43		
		♥	J85		
		♦	AQ92		
		♣	KQ3		

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: 15-17 HCP
2: Majors
3: Lebensohl
4: Questions about Dbl by South

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
4♠X by E	Made 5	E/W +990	

Facts Determined at the Table

Director was called when dummy came down, and again at the end of hand. East asked "is double takeout or penalty?" North shrugged and said values. West claimed he was planning on raising 3♠ to 4 until South doubled.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

Three players were polled. One passed 4♣. The other two thought it was close, but bid 4♠. All thought the question demonstrably suggested bidding.

Director Ruling

The player poll confirmed that pass was a logical alternative over 4♣ following the UI suggested by the question. Therefore, based upon Laws 16B1 & 12C1C, the result was adjusted to 4♣ by North, down 1, E/W +50.

Director's Ruling	4♣ by N, Down 1, E/W +50
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The Appeal

West requested a review of the ruling. West maintained that it was clear to bid 4♠ once advancer bids 3♠. After the double, the reason not to bid is to see if the opponent let them play in 3♠X, or see if partner would want to double a possible 4♦ bid by North. Failing that, he was always bidding 4♠. He felt that not enough of his peers were consulted.

Panel Findings

The reviewer polled more players, and found that many would bid, but passing was considered by most, and chosen by some. The original findings of the table director were confirmed, and the ruling was upheld. The limited size and concern of makeup of the original poll was deemed a sufficient matter to deem the appeal had merit.

Panel Decision	4♣ by N, Down 1, E/W +50
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Kevin Perkins
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Subject of Appeal:	Misinformation	Case:	N10
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Event	Wernher Open Pairs	Event DIC	McKenzie Myers
Date	07/28/2016	Session	Second Final

Auction

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♦	Dbl
1♥	Pass	1NT ¹	Pass
2♣	Dbl	Pass	Pass
2♦	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Hand Record

Board	20	N	Meyer Kotkin		
Dealer	W	♠ 864			
		♥ 875			
		♦ 974			
Vul	Both	♣ K532			
W	Jiun-Ming Chen			E	Chris Lin
♠	J93			♠	AK10
♥	J643			♥	Q9
♦	A532			♦	J1086
♣	109			♣	AJ84
		S	Robert Heitzman		
		♠	Q752		
		♥	AK102		
		♦	KQ		
		♣	Q76		

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: 15-17 HCP, no Alert
2: Alerted, forces 2♦, to play

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
3♣ by S	Down 4	E/W +400	

Facts Determined at the Table

When dummy came down, South asked West about the 1NT and was informed that East showed a strong no trump. South called the director, and claimed that he would not have balanced if he had known that East had a strong no trump.

Director Ruling

The ruling, after discussion, was that the result would stand. The failure to alert was felt to have caused less damage than the actual double of 2♣ by North, which most probably led South to take action. Law 40B4 says that a side damaged as a consequence of its opponents' failure to explain their agreements is entitled to an adjusted score. Event staff deemed that North's double was the source of the damage rather than the failure to alert 1NT.

Director's Ruling	3♣ by S, Down 4, E/W +400
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The Appeal

N/S requested a review of the ruling. South admitted that the 3♣ bid was a rather poor choice, but that, with the right information he would never have bid 3♣. South felt that even if his side had to keep their score, E/W should not be able to keep the table result.

Panel Findings

The reviewer polled players with North's hand. All passed at every turn in the auction. When asked about the option of doubling 2♣, all thought it was a very poor choice. One said it was "asking for trouble". The reviewer then polled players with South's hand. All of those polled agreed with the initial double, none considered bidding at any point during the bidding. When asked about bidding 3♣, all thought it was extremely risky vulnerable. When asked about whether knowing that the 1NT rebid showed a strong NT affected the decision, all felt it made very little, if any difference. When asked how much is very little, all felt bidding was so likely to be wrong it was hard to judge.

The reviewer's polling showed that the misinformation was not the cause of N/S's damage. As such, the table result must stand. The reviewer felt that the initial poll may not have been conducted correctly. More importantly, event staff did not explain to N/S why the poll led to their ruling. As such, the appeal was deemed to have merit.

Panel Decision

3♣ by S, Down 4, E/W +400

Panel Members

Reviewer	Kevin Perkins
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Subject of Appeal:	Simultaneous Leads	Case:	N11
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Event	Wernher Open Pairs	Event DIC	McKenzie Myers
Date	07/28/2016	Session	Second Final

Auction

West	North	East	South

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

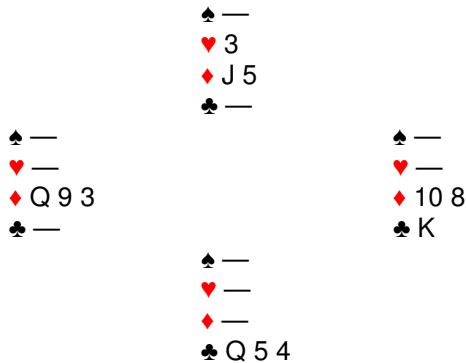
Hand Record

Board	22	N	Low Walter		
Dealer	E	♠	AQJ3		
Vul	E/W	♥	AJ83		
		♦	J65		
		♣	73		
W	John Botzum			E	Miriam Harris-Botzum
♠	10862			♠	75
♥	K62			♥	54
♦	Q932			♦	A10874
♣	AJ			♣	K862
		S	Marin Marinov		
		♠	K94		
		♥	Q1097		
		♦	K		
		♣	Q10954		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
2♥ by S			♠ 6

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was called at the three card ending, shown here.



East thought she had won the ♦A at trick 10 and led the ♦8 at trick 11. South, who was the real winner of trick 10, played the ♣4. South claimed that he had accepted the lead out of turn and was following to the trick, discarding a small club. East/West believe that South failed to notice that East had led out of turn, and was leading the ♣4 out of his hand. East/West believed the cards hit the table simultaneously. North/South maintain that the ♦8 hit the table first, although South first claimed they hit the table at the same time, but East started to play her card first.

Director Ruling

Based on the statements of both sides, it was determined that East led out of turn, and South accepted the lead, and played to it. This resulted in 2♥ by South, making four, N/S +170

Director's Ruling

2♥ by S, Made 4, N/S +170

The Appeal

East/West asked for a review of the ruling. The reviewer talked to both sides. E/W claimed South played the ♣4 at the same time as East played the diamond. South, upon questioning, admitted that the cards hit the table at "about the same time". When questioned about whether the play was subsequent, however close, South was unable to acknowledge this fact.

Panel Findings

Due to South's inability to confirm that the play was indeed subsequent, the play was deemed to be simultaneous. Per Law 58A, a play simultaneous to another player's legal play is deemed to be subsequent to it. South was deemed to have led the ♣4 at trick 11, which would result in North-South taking one fewer trick. The score was adjusted to 2♥ by South, making three, N/S +140.

Panel Decision

2♥ by S, Made 3, N/S +140

Panel Members

Reviewer

Kevin Perkins

Subject of Appeal:	Misinformation/Unauthorized Information	Case:	N12
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Event	Roth Open Swiss Teams	Event DIC	Kevin Perkins
Date	07/29/2016	Session	Second Qualifying


Auction

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♦	1NT	Dbl	2♣ ¹
Pass	Pass	Dbl ²	2♦
Pass	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Explained as natural
2: Break in Tempo

Hand Record

Board	35	N	Alan Watson		
Dealer	S	♠	AK53		
		♥	KQ9		
		♦	K854		
Vul	E/W	♣	63		
W	Michal Nowosadzki			E	Jacek Kalita
♠	9764			♠	QJ
♥	A432			♥	J76
♦	A73			♦	J
♣	K7			♣	AJ109542
		S	Melody Bi		
		♠	1082		
		♥	1085		
		♦	Q10962		
		♣	Q8		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
3NT by W	Down 5	N/S +500	♠ A

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was called at the end of the hand. South had intended her 2♣ call as Stayman. E/W felt they were damaged by a mistaken explanation of 2♣ and perhaps by unauthorized information.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

Ten players were given the South hand. After 2♣ was doubled, six passed and four bid 2♦. Of the passers, some considered North had a club suit of his own, others thought he might have psyched 1NT. Even if those who thought partner had psyched are excluded, Pass is a logical alternative. Players who were asked what they thought the UI suggested said that it made 2♦ more attractive. Four players were given the North hand and an auction where South passed 2♣X; all four passed.

Director Ruling

South had UI from North's explanation of 2♣ as natural, and the player poll showed that pass was a logical alternative to bidding. E/W made the statement that if 2♣X did get redoubled, they would then play the club suit correctly (drop the ♣Q) in 3NT, as North would never run from 2♣X with ♣Qxx. The contract and result were adjusted to 2♣X by South, down four, E/W +800, per Laws 16B1 and 12C1c.

Director's Ruling	2♣X by S, Down 4, E/W +800
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The Appeal

N/S requested a review of the ruling. South said she could understand playing in 2♣ undoubled, but the implied diamond fit (as partner had overcalled 1NT over 1♦) had to be a better place to play. North said he was comfortable passing 2♣ undoubled, particularly at this vulnerability, but that he was never going to pass 2♣X. He mentioned East's break in tempo before doubling gave him ample reason to believe 2♣X was not a good spot for N/S.

Panel Findings

The reviewer conducted further polling. His first concern was the element of the ruling that South would not work out that N/S were having an accident absent the UI. The first consultant indeed passed 2♣X, so he felt the original poll was likely valid. His second concern was the element of the ruling that North would not work out that N/S were having an accident. North has no UI; evidence was collected to gauge the likelihood that North would pass 2♣X. Four players were polled, given what was known of the N/S system. Two redoubled, saying that it was clear we were having some sort of accident and there had to be a better place to play. One passed and assumed that we were in the right place or partner would have bid differently. One thought pass was correct unless he suspected we were having an accident; if it was more than a small possibility of that, he would redouble.

The reviewer assembled a panel of TDs and presented the facts of the original ruling and the supplemental polling. The panel felt it was certain that if North redoubled, E/W would reach 3NT and would make either nine or ten tricks there. The panel felt North would work out that N/S were having an accident about half the time. They also felt EW would take nine tricks or ten tricks each about half the time. Therefore the contract and result were changed to 50% of 2♣X by South, down 4, EW +800, 25% of 3NT by East or West making 3, E/W +400, and 25% of 3NT by East or West making 4, E/W +430, per Laws 16B1, 40B4, and 12C1c.

Experts Consulted: David Bakhshi, Nick Jacob, Roger Lee, David Grainger

Panel Decision	50% 2♣X by S, Down 4, E/W +800 25% 3NT by W, Made 3, E/W +400 25% 3NT by W, Made 4, E/W +430
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Matt Koltnow
Member	Ken Horwedel
Member	Eric Bell
Member	David Metcalf

Subject of Appeal:	Misinformation	Case:	N13
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Event	Spingold Knockout Teams	Event DIC	Matt Smith
Date	07/30/2016	Session	Semifinals


Auction

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♣	1♦	1♥ ¹	Dbl
4♦	Pass	4♠	5♦
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Spades

Hand Record

Board	7	N	Alejandro Bianchedi		
Dealer	S	♠	J105		
		♥	A1042		
		♦	K9875		
Vul	Both	♣	Q		
W	Pierre Zimmermann			E	Franck Multon
♠	A			♠	KQ642
♥	K7653			♥	J98
♦	(void)			♦	QJ102
♣	K1087652			♣	4
		S	Agustin Madala		
		♠	9873		
		♥	Q		
		♦	A643		
		♣	AJ93		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
5♦X by N	Down 2	E/W +500	

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was called at the end of the auction. East had alerted North about the 1♥ bid immediately. West had forgotten, and did not alert the bid until after the tray was passed back to the North/East side following his 4♦ call. At the end of the hand, South told the director he would have bid 2NT, a good diamond raise, instead of doubling if he had been properly informed. He would not have needed to bid 5♦ later.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

The director polled seven players. Two were asked about 2NT, and they felt it looked to be the normal action South would take rather than double. They felt West would still bid 4♦. If South did not later bid 5♦, E/W were likely to be down three for -800 in a doubled five-level contract in either clubs or hearts. The seven were asked what they would do, having bid 2NT earlier: three bid 5♦ and four passed. Most thought it was a very close decision.

Director Ruling

Based upon the player poll, the contract and results were changed to 75% N/S +800 (in 5♠X by W or 5♥X by E) and 25% EW +500, for 5♦x by North down two (the table result), per Laws 40B4, 21C3, and 12C1c.

Director's Ruling	75% 5♠/♥X by W/E, Down 3, N/S +800 25% 5♦X by N, Down 2, E/W +300
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The Appeal

N/S requested a review of the ruling. They felt that the poll results were invalid, as the polled players did not understand N/S's methods. According to N/S, in their methods after the 2NT bid, North would pass 4♦, which would show less interest in competing. After East's 4♠ bid, South would double. This double is not penalty; rather it suggests a sacrifice unless partner has reason to pass. South admitted that this would normally have been a route to 5♦X as it was in the actual auction. He was adamant that N/S would never get a chance to reach 5♦X as West would always bid over 4♠X, having shown support for the wrong suit earlier in the auction.

E/W raised four concerns. West said that if South passed 4♠, he would as well. West asserted that nine tricks (down two) was likely in either five-level contract. West suggested South's 2NT bid would wake him up to his forgotten agreement. West further felt that South could just as well have doubled in the auction as it unfolded.

Panel Findings

The reviewer first interviewed four players to gauge the veracity of N/S's statement of their agreements regarding double in this auction. All said that this was a treatment they had all played against, particularly among European players. The reviewer then polled seven additional players, giving them the South hand. All passed initially (although one would have preferred to open), all wanted to make a good diamond raise and accepted 2NT as the agreement. Six of the seven would have doubled and one passed, using this pair's methods.

The reviewer consulted three experts to analyze the play in 5♣X or 5♥X. They did not see any reasonable line of play for declarer to take as many as nine tricks. In fact, they found seven tricks to be a significant possibility in 5♣X, which was the only contract one of them thought reasonable.

The reviewer addressed E/W's counter-arguments. 4♠ undoubled was not a possibility, as polling showed South would always double 4♠ had he raised diamonds earlier. Scoring nine tricks declaring 5♣ or 5♥ was not an achievable result for E/W. South opted for 5♦ rather than doubling 4♠ in the actual auction because he needed to avoid a disaster: he had doubled 1♥, at the time thinking he'd shown spades. If he doubled 4♠, partner might misunderstand and think the suggested sacrifice was in 5♥ (which leads to 6♦X) because North did not know about the slow alert of 1♥ on the other side of the screen. Lastly, the director's initial poll combined with the video showing the tempo of West's 4♦ call gave no evidence he would have done anything other than bid 4♦, even over South's proposed 2NT.

The contract was adjusted to 5♣X by West, (75% of the time) down 3, N/S +800, and (25% of the time) down 4, N/S +1100 per Laws 21C3, 40B4, and 12C1c.

Panel Decision	75% 5♣X by W, Down 3, N/S +800 25% 5♣X by W, Down 4, N/S +1100
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Matt Koltnow
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Subject of Appeal:	Misinformation/Unauthorized Information	Case:	N14
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Event	Roth Open Swiss Teams	Event DIC	Kevin Perkins
Date	07/30/2016	Session	First Semifinal


Auction

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1NT ¹
Dbl ²	2♦ ³	Pass	2♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: 15-17 HCP
2: Penalty
3: Explained as a transfer

Hand Record

Board	25	N	Neil Silverman		
Dealer	N	♠	J8654		
		♥	54		
Vul	E/W	♦	Q754		
		♣	76		
W	Joel Wooldridge			E	John Hurd
♠	KQ			♠	10972
♥	K1076			♥	Q932
♦	AJ102			♦	6
♣	QJ9	S	Jeff Wolfson	♣	A1083
		♠	A3		
		♥	AJ8		
		♦	K983		
		♣	K542		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
2♥ by S	Down 4	E/W +200	

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was called at the end of the auction. North told the director that 2♦ should have been explained as diamonds and a major. Away from the table, East said he would have doubled 2♦ for takeout with that information.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

Staff followed up on the claim of MI. Players who were asked found a takeout double a very reasonable action by East. Staff considered auction continuations after South bid 2♥, as he felt he was accepting the transfer. One continued 2♥-Dbl-2♠-Dbl-All Pass; another possibility was 2♥-Dbl-2♠-Dbl-3♦-Dbl-All Pass. Three experts were consulted to analyze the play in 2♠X and 3♦X. They felt it overwhelmingly likely that each contract would be down two.

Director Ruling

Based upon the player poll, the directors judged that the MI had damaged E/W. Accordingly, the director assigned the score of 50% of 2♠X by North, down two, E/W +300 and 50% of 3♦X by North, down two, E/W +300, per Laws 40B4, 21C3, and 12C1c.

Director's Ruling	50% 3♦X by N, Down 2, E/W +300 50% 2♠X by N, Down 2, E/W +300
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The Appeal

N/S requested a review of the ruling. They felt the play in 2♠ was not analyzed correctly.

Panel Findings

The reviewer felt the table director did not address the unauthorized information aspect of the ruling, so he began the ruling process anew.

North was in possession of UI from partner's explanation of 2♦ as a transfer. The reviewer asked three players about what an auction of Pass-Pass-1NT-Dbl-2♦-Pass-2♥-Pass-2♠ might show.

One said it was not possible that North was trying to show an invitational hand (because of the penalty double), but two indicated that this sequence might well have a conventional meaning to N/S and could easily lead to a large penalty playing a doubled contract at the three-level. Five players were polled with the North hand after partner's 2♥ call; all of them bid 2♠ and questioned how anyone could ever bid anything else, having shown diamonds and a major, with partner's 2♥ bid being pass-or-correct. Three additional players were given the South hand. All of them bid 2♥ and corrected 2♠ to 3♦, feeling that it was clear N/S were having an accident and that North held diamonds and spades.

Lastly, several players assisted in the analysis of 3♦X. The Reviewer accepted the analysis of the expert who felt that while six or eight tricks were possible about 10% of the time, a result of seven tricks was a clear majority result. The reviewer elected not to give any weight to those two scores and adjusted the score to 3♦X by North, down two, E/W +300. based upon Laws 16B and 12C1c.

Experts consulted: several; Barry Rigal was the Reviewer's play analyst.

Panel Decision	3♦X by N, Down 2, E/W +300
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Matt Koltnow
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Subject of Appeal:	Misinformation/Unauthorized Information	Case:	N15
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Event	Roth Open Swiss Teams	Event DIC	Kevin Perkins
Date	07/30/2016	Session	First Semifinal


Auction

West	North	East	South
			1♥
1♠	2NT ¹	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Explained as limit raise

Hand Record

Board	23	N	Jovanka Smederevac		
Dealer	S	♠	106		
		♥	10987		
Vul	Both	♦	K10		
		♣	AK1062		
W	Boguslaw Gierulski			E	Jerzy Skrzypczak
♠	AQJ84			♠	732
♥	4			♥	J32
♦	6542			♦	AQJ9
♣	QJ4			♣	853
		S	Gabriella Olivieri		
		♠	K95		
		♥	AKQ65		
		♦	873		
		♣	97		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
4♥ by S	Made 5	N/S +650	♣ J

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was called at the end of the hand. At the end of the auction, North said she intended 2NT as forcing. E/W said that opposite a limit raise, they cannot bid 3♦ or 3♥ naturally, as those are three-card and four-card raises. If 2NT is forcing, then 3♦ is a spade raise suggesting a diamond lead.

Director Ruling

The TD ruled there had been misinformation, but that E/W had jeopardized their case by waiting until the end of the hand to call the director. Nonetheless, he conducted a poll of players to see whether the different meanings for 2NT affected their call. None of the players polled bid anything different with either set of information, so there were no grounds to adjust the score under Laws 40B or 21B.

Director's Ruling	4♥ by S, Made 5, N/S +650
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The Appeal

E/W requested a review of the ruling. They said that their agreements were as they described. East felt calling the director at the time the misinformation was revealed would have made it clear to West what he wanted led. North reiterated a fact she had presented to the table director that she had always intended to force with her hand, as the high-card strength and two doubletons made it worth upgrading.

Panel Findings

The reviewer was concerned about the integrity of the original poll, as polled players must be apprised of the methods a partnership uses in order for the poll results to be valid. First, he asked two players whether the set of agreements E/W said they had made sense. Both players said yes: one played against these methods; the other used them. Three additional players were given the East hand. All bid 3♦.

The reviewer was also concerned about unauthorized information. South explained North's bid as limit, yet North bid 4♥ anyway. It was possible that North took advantage of UI to bid 4♥. The reviewer was not able to interview N/S to pursue this element of the ruling. Since E/W only sought to have a diamond lead so they would defeat 4♥, he adjusted the score to 4♥ by South, down one, E/W +100, per Laws 40B4, 21B3, and 12C1c.

Panel Decision

4♥ by S, Down 1, E/W +100

Panel Members

Reviewer	Matt Koltnow
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Subject of Appeal:	Tempo/Unauthorized Information	Case:	N16
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Event	Roth Open Swiss Teams	Event DIC	Kevin Perkins
Date	07/30/2016	Session	First Semifinal

Auction

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	3♦	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass ¹

Hand Record

Board	2	N	May Sakr		
Dealer	E	♠ 97	♥ QJ10		
Vul	N/S	♦ Q1073	♣ 10432		
W	Andy Bowles			E	Shireen Mohandes
♠	AK82			♠	QJ
♥	4			♥	K876
♦	AK85			♦	J642
♣	Q986			♣	K75
		S			
		♠	106543		
		♥	A9532		
		♦	9		
		♣	AJ		

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Break in Tempo

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
3NT by W	Down 2	N/S +100	♥ Q

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was called when the opening lead was made. West stated there had been an unmistakable hesitation before South's final pass. North and South agreed there was a small hesitation; South said it was probably ten seconds.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

The director deemed that ten seconds was enough to rule there had been an unmistakable hesitation, so he proceeded to poll players to determine whether there was damage from use of that UI. The director polled four players with North's opening lead problem. One led a club, and the other three led a heart. All four thought the break in tempo suggested leading a heart. The three players who led a heart all told the director that they would lead a club if South had broken tempo.

Director Ruling

Based upon Laws 73C and 16B1 and the player poll, the TD imposed a club lead on North. He got expert analysis of the play in 3NT, and the experts believed down one was a very likely result, and making three would happen a small percentage of the time. Accordingly, per Law 12C1c, he adjusted the score to 75% of 3NT by West, down one, N/S +50, and 25% of 3NT by West, making three, EW +400.

Director's Ruling	75% 3NT by W, Down 1, N/S +50 25% 3NT by W, Made 3, E/W +400
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The Appeal

N/S requested a review of the ruling. North thought no reasonable player would choose a lead other than the ♥Q; she was concerned players were not informed of the E/W bidding system. E/W were playing ACOL with a strong no trump; West's 1♠ rebid suggested an unbalanced hand pattern, making a heart lead automatic.

Panel Findings

The reviewer was concerned about the integrity of the poll results. A director asks questions about actions a player would choose, other actions which are attractive, and the value of UI which might be present. The table director asked questions in a way that those polled were effectively making the ruling, rather than giving their expert bridge opinion. Using that poll information might have led the TD to draw an incorrect conclusion.

The reviewer accepted the original poll's finding that the UI suggested a heart lead. He was concerned that those polled did not have an accurate description of the E/W bidding system. He gave the hand to eight players. All eight players led the ♥Q and felt no reasonable player would choose any other lead. On this information, the Review panel felt that Law 16B1 did not apply—while there was UI that suggested a heart lead, there was no logical alternative. The Panel restored the table result of 3NT, down two, N/S +100.

Panel Decision	3NT by W, Down 2, N/S +100
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Matt Koltnow
Advisor	Gary Zeiger
Advisor	David Metcalf

Subject of Appeal:	Unintended Call	Case:	N17
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Event	Roth Open Swiss Teams	Event DIC	Kevin Perkins
Date	07/30/2016	Session	Second Semifinal


Auction

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣ ¹	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Unintended

Hand Record

Board	34	N	Alan Watson		
Dealer	E	♠	AJ9xx		
		♥	AQx		
		♦	QJ		
		♣	Kxx		
Vul	N/S				
W	Andrea Manno			E	Massimiliano DiFranco
♠				♠	
♥				♥	
♦				♦	
♣				♣	
		S	Melody Bi		
		♠	(void)		
		♥	Jxx		
		♦	Axxx		
		♣	AQJxxx		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
3♣ by S	Made 6	N/S +1	

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was called when the 3♣ bid was made. Immediately after his 3♣ bid touched the table, North realized it was not the bid he wanted to make. The director's inquiry focused on whether a bid had been made. ACBL Bid Box regulations call for directors to apply the provisions of Law 45C (Played Card) to determine whether a bid has actually been made and is part of the auction. East, West, and South all described the position of the bid cards as on the table; North held the cards much higher and off the table.

From these facts, the director ruled that North had bid 3♣, per Law 85A. However, the director's impression was that 3♣ was not North's intended call, so he directed North to replace 3♣ with what he intended. East and West objected vociferously; they made it clear they thought North should not be allowed to change his call. The director decided to take North away from the table to make a more careful determination whether 3♣ was North's intention. Away from the table, North told the director that it was obvious he could never have intended 3♣ as it was non-forcing. He meant to bid 2♦, systemically game forcing.

Director Ruling

The director considered the facts he was able to collect, and he concluded that North did indeed intend to bid 3♣. He thought the best explanation for North's 3♣ bid was that he intended to support clubs on his next turn after having forced to game; he had just gotten one round ahead of the bidding. That means North's action was intended and not able to be corrected. Law 25 did not apply; he cautioned South that she had UI (Law 16B1) and that she could not gain an advantage from anything she had heard.

Director's Ruling	3♣ by S, Made 6, N/S +170
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The Appeal

N/S requested a review of the ruling. They thought that the director had ruled correctly when he analyzed North's action as unintended (a mechanical error). They questioned why he changed his mind and how he determined North's action was intended rather than unintended.

Panel Findings

Under current ACBL appeal procedures, the original ruling is to be considered correct unless a procedural error is detected or an illegal ruling has been made. The reviewer independently explored the theory of 3♣ being intended at a later turn as did his panel advisor. The reviewer found no procedural error or incorrect application of Law; as such, the table ruling must stand. The table director had effectively made two different rulings (first applying Law 25A, then deciding its provisions had not been met and applying 16B1 instead). As such, the appeal was deemed to have merit.

Panel Decision

3♣ by S, Made 6, N/S +170

Panel Members

Reviewer	Matt Koltnow
Advisor	Gary Zeiger

Subject of Appeal:	Tempo/Unauthorized Information	Case:	N18
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Event	Roth Open Swiss Teams	Event DIC	Kevin Perkins
Date	07/31/2016	Session	Second Final


Auction

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	2♠	4♣ ¹	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♠ ²	Pass
6♣ ³	Pass	7♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Clubs & Hearts, Forcing
2: Cuebid, looking for grand slam
3: Break in Tempo

Hand Record

Board	3	N	Dan, Wolkowitz		
Dealer	S	♠	KQ10952		
		♥	84		
Vul	E/W	♦	KJ9		
		♣	84		
W	Kevin Rosenberg			E	Ben Kristensen
♠	A87643			♠	(void)
♥	2			♥	AKJ10965
♦	A52			♦	3
♣	J72			♣	AKQ93
		S	Kyoko Shimamura		
		♠	J		
		♥	Q73		
		♦	Q108764		
		♣	1065		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
7♣ by E	Made 7	E/W +2140	

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was called during the post-match score comparison. North/South sought a ruling on the slow 6♣ bid and 7♣ continuation.

The director collected facts regarding the tempo of the auction. West stated that he thought he had taken 15-30 seconds to bid 6♣. On the opposite side of the screen, North and East agreed that they had acknowledged at the time there had been a break in tempo, which East estimated after the match could well have been 30-45 seconds. Under newly-adopted screen procedures, much more weight is given to statements of the players on the opposite side of the screen from the source of any UI, such as a break in tempo.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

The director gave the East hand to three players. Over 6♣, two passed. One wanted to bid 7♣ over 4♠.

Director Ruling

The player poll established Pass as a LA, so, according to Laws 16B1 and 12C1c, the contract and result were adjusted to 6♣ by East, making 7, EW +1390.

Director's Ruling	6♣ by E, Made 7, E/W +1390
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The Appeal

E/W requested a review of the ruling. East said he was always bidding 7♣; West thought the BIT was not long enough to be an unmistakable hesitation, particularly in a high-level auction such as this..

Panel Findings

The reviewer was concerned about the integrity of the poll, as the table director had limited time and resources. She had only been able to poll three players.

The reviewer polled four additional players with the East hand. All wanted to show a strong hand with clubs and hearts and accepted the 4♣ bid. Over 4♣, three chose 5♣ and one bid 5NT, but he thought 5♣ was a good choice as well. All four passed 6♣. The three who were asked said that a slow 6♣ suggested doubt about whether 6♣ should be the final contract; it made 7♣ more attractive to them.

Separately, two players were asked about how much the screen itself masked the source of the UI. They suggested that if players had been careful to move the tray more slowly during earlier rounds of bidding, this break in tempo might not have been noticeable. They felt in this case that it was clear that only West could have hesitated. The reviewer felt that his research showed the table ruling had indeed been correct. By new ACBL appeals procedure, the table ruling is required to stand unless a procedural error or misapplication of Law is discovered.

Experts consulted on screen environment: David Bakhshi, David Gold

Panel Decision	6♣ by E, Made 7, E/W +1390
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Matt Koltnow
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Subject of Appeal:	Tempo/Unauthorized Information	Case:	R1
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Event	Grand National Teams, Flight B	Event DIC	Ken Van Cleve
Date	07/20/2016	Session	Qualifying First Session

Auction

West	North	East	South
		2♠	Dbl
Pass	3♣ ¹	Pass	3♥ ²
Pass	4♥	Pass	5♣ ²
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Hand Record

Board	30	N	2090 MPS		
Dealer	E	♠	8542		
		♥	J10		
Vul	None	♦	AK9		
		♣	Q952		
W	1330 MPS			E	660 MPS
♠	103			♠	KQJ976
♥	Q9875			♥	A63
♦	J1062			♦	84
♣	A4			♣	103
		S	1410 MPS		
		♠	A		
		♥	K42		
		♦	Q753		
		♣	KJ876		

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Natural, shows values
2: Break in Tempo

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
5♣ by N	Made 5	N/S +400	♠ K

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was called after the hand by West. West claimed that 3♥ was bid slowly (E/W said 15 seconds, N/S less than 10 seconds) and 5♣ was bid quickly, and that passing 5♣ was strange.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

Six players were polled with the North hand. Five bid 5♦ as a cue bid, and one bid 5♥. Passing is not a logical alternative, and non-pass actions will result in N/S playing 6♣.

Director Ruling

As the player poll confirmed that passing 5♣ was not a logical alternative and UI existed from the breaks in tempo, per Laws 16B and 12C, the result was changed to 6♣ by North, down 1, E/W +50.

Director's Ruling	6♣ by N, Down 1, E/W +50
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The Appeal

N/S appealed. All four players attended the review. The reviewer asked the appellants if there was any law misinterpreted or procedure done in error concerning the Director's ruling. They could not come up with an answer to the question. They did say they did not like how the director handled the ruling.

North testified that the 3♥ bid could either be a strong heart hand or a cue bid in support of clubs. Over 4♥, he could have bid 4♠ or 4NT to show it was heart support. Therefore 5♣ had to be clubs, but he could not explain why 5♣ could not be support for hearts, which would be a normal treatment.

The panel tried further to get the appellants to explain how in their system this auction showed only clubs. For example, they were asked to explain the difference between the sequence of 2♠-Dbl-P-3♣C-P-3♥ and the sequence 2♠-Dbl-P-3♣-P-3♠. They answered only that the second sequence most likely was looking for 3NT.

Panel Findings

The panel saw no errors in the director's ruling. The quick bid of 5♣ created UI (Law 73A: "calls and plays should be made without undue emphasis, mannerism or inflection, and without undue hesitation or haste"). North by passing 5♣ violated Law 73C ("he must carefully avoid taking any advantage from that UI"), which led to Law 16B and 12C. The ruling by the table director was therefore upheld, 6♣ by N, down 1, E/W +50. An Appeal without Merit Warning was also issued.

Panel Decision	6♣ by N, Down 1, E/W +50
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Jeff Jacob
Member	Matt Koltnow
Member	Ken Horwedel

Subject of Appeal: Misinformation	Case: R2
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Event Bruce Life Master Pairs	Event DIC Mike Roberts
Date 07/22/2016	Session First Qualifying


Auction

West	North	East	South
			1♣
1♦	1♠	Db1 ¹	Rdb1 ²
Pass	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	2♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Explained as penalty
2: Three card ♠ support

Hand Record

Board	23	N	2000 MPS		
Dealer	S	♠	A10963		
		♥	K83		
Vul	Both	♦	1097		
		♣	104		
W	2650 MPS			E	900 MPS
♠	QJ			♠	874
♥	J9			♥	Q10754
♦	Q86542			♦	K
♣	AJ2			♣	K953
		S	2350 MPS		
		♠	K52		
		♥	A62		
		♦	AJ3		
		♣	Q876		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
2♠ by N	Made 2	N/S +110	♦ K

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was called at the conclusion of the play. At the end of the auction, North asked what the E/W agreement was concerning East's double. He was told that it was a penalty double. East had intended the call to show hearts. During the play, North finessed East for the ♠Q and claimed he would be less likely to make that play had he not received that explanation.

Director Ruling

There was not sufficient documentation provided by E/W to serve as evidence that the double was penalty by agreement (Law 75C: "the Director is to presume mistaken explanation, rather than mistaken call, in the absence of evidence to the contrary."). The directors ruled that the misinformation provided resulted in damage to N/S, and adjusted the score to 2♠ by North making three, N/S +140 (Laws 47E2b and 12C1).

Director's Ruling	2♠ by N, Made 3, N/S +140
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The Appeal

E/W appealed the director's ruling. All players attended the review. The reviewer discovered that North's question actually occurred after dummy was spread. The play had been ♦K won in dummy with the ace; low spade to West's jack and declarer's ace; ♠9 from declarer ducked around to West's queen. Declarer lost that trick, the ♦Q and a diamond ruff by East, and two clubs.

E/W are a long-standing and regular partnership. Their convention cards were fully completed. Responsive doubles were noted. West thought they had discussed that responsive doubles applied only when the same suit was raised, therefore the default for East's double was penalty; East did not recall such a discussion. East intended his double as responsive showing hearts, not specifically Snapdragon. There was no notation of Snapdragon doubles on the convention cards.

North told the reviewer that when he saw dummy he wondered if the double was Snapdragon, thus prompting his question. When asked what he thought of the auction with that explanation he said he thought it made sense even though it looked a bit weird. He thought it was possible that the double could have been made on a four card suit headed by the queen, and the redouble sent East running. He maintained he would not have played the spade suit the way he did if he had not been told the double was penalty.

E/W were asked why they were appealing the director's ruling. West said that they believed the convention cards supported that their real agreement for the double was penalty.

Panel Findings

The panel first addressed whether there had been any misinformation. Given that East's understanding of what his double meant was different than West's, and that he did not recall a discussion about what it meant in the situation where RHO bids a different suit than opener, the panel agreed with the directors that misinformation occurred. West told North that an agreement existed and that it was penalty when in fact no such agreement seemed to exist.

The panel then decided to investigate whether the misinformation caused damage to North in the play to 2♠. The reviewer gave the hand as a single dummy problem to two peers of North. Both assumed without asking that the double showed hearts, but did not think it unusual to ask. When each was told that the double was described as penalty, neither found the explanation unusual. Both won the diamond ace and played a spade to the ace and ducked the ten through East losing to West's queen. When told afterward that there really was no such agreement, neither wanted to finesse East for the spade queen for fear of a diamond ruff.

Based on this information, the panel concluded that North was damaged by the misinformation he received and that he would have made nine tricks in its absence. The panel upheld the directors' ruling. The appeal was found to have merit.

Panel Decision	2♠ by N, Made 3, N/S +140
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Matt Smith
Member	Jenni Carmichael
Member	Brian Weikle
Member	Matt Koltnow

Subject of Appeal:	Misinformation	Case:	R3
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Event	Young 5K Life Master Pairs	Event DIC	Mike Roberts
Date	07/24/2016	Session	Second Final


Auction

West	North	East	South
		1♠	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT ¹	Pass
4♦ ²	Pass	5♣ ²	Pass
5♥ ²	Pass	6♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Trump Cuebid, No Alert
2: Control Cuebid

Hand Record

Board	10	N	2930 MPS		
Dealer	E	♠ 942	♥ Q5		
Vul	Both	♦ Q109876	♣ 106		
W	1520 MPS			E	3320 MPS
♠ K76				♠ AQJ105	
♥ AKJ1087				♥ 64	
♦ K				♦ J4	
♣ Q94		S	4680 MPS		
		♠ 83			
		♥ 932			
		♦ A532			
		♣ J875			

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
6♠ by E	Made 7	E/W +1460	♠ 3

Facts Determined at the Table

At the end of the auction, 3NT was explained as a trump cue bid (not alerted). South inquired about the 4♦ bid, which was explained as a cue bid. When South inquired further, East described the 4♦ bid as first round control.

At the end of the hand, South summoned the director and claimed he would have led the ♦A if he had been told it could be a second round control. East/West insisted the explanation was correct. When pressed further by the table director as to why West bid 4♦, he replied, "Because it seemed like the best bid."

Director Ruling

The legal question for the table director was if the explanation provided correlates with the partnership agreement. East/West's first line of defense that they correctly explained the agreement was by pointing to the lack of Italian cue bids on the card. That was not sufficient for the table director, who originally concluded that the explanation was incorrect.

Later on, however, East/West produced system notes that explicitly demonstrated the 4♦ bid showed first round control. Based on the production of system notes, the director ruled there was no misinformation or other legal infraction, and the table result was allowed to stand (Law 75C).

Director's Ruling	6♠ by E, Made 7, E/W +1460
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The Appeal

North/South appealed the ruling. All players appeared at the review. Only South disputed the ruling (North said nothing unless asked a specific question of fact by the reviewer). South did not dispute that the system notes were consistent with the explanation of the 4♦ bid proffered by East.

When asked by the reviewer why in South's opinion the director was incorrect in his ruling, South said that first round control was not the agreement. When presented with the system notes, South said that since West bid 4♦, that means first round control cannot be their agreement. When asked by the reviewer if it was South's belief that a player can never deviate from a partnership agreement, he restated that it cannot be their agreement if West bid 4♦.

Panel Findings

The Panel upheld the ruling of 6♠ by East, making 7, E/W +1460. South's position that East/West did not properly state their agreement, not only belies the best evidence that East/West did in fact accurately describe their agreement (the system notes) but also ignores the law that explicitly allows a player to deviate from his announced understandings always, provided the partner has no more reason to be aware of the deviation than the opponents (Law 40C1). Moreover, no player has any obligation to disclose to his opponents that he has deviated from his announced methods (Law 40C2). South's argument, taken to its logical conclusion, means that once a partnership reaches an agreement, the partners are never allowed to make a call contrary to the agreement. The laws specifically allow players to deviate from their agreements. Such a deviation does not vitiate the agreement.

The panel considered whether the appeal had merit. South did not contest the contents of the system notes; South simply refused to accept the director's ruling. South presented no new information or evidence that the ruling was incorrect. Thus, the panel issued an Appeal without Merit Warning to North/South.

Panel Decision	6♠ by E, Made 7, E/W +1460
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Scott Humphrey
Member	Eric Bell
Member	Kevin Perkins

Subject of Appeal:	Misinformation	Case:	R4
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Event	10K Pairs	Event DIC	Charlie MacCracken
Date	07/23/2016	Session	First Qualifying


Auction

West	North	East	South
		1♠	Dbl
2♥ ¹	Pass	3♣ ²	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Constructive Spade Raise
2: No Alert

Hand Record

Board	6	N	2500 MPS		
Dealer	E	♠	J		
		♥	QJ84		
Vul	E/W	♦	Q72		
		♣	109763		
W	6900 MPS			E	8800 MPS
♠	A10963			♠	KQ8752
♥	K32			♥	A109
♦	1043			♦	AJ8
♣	82			♣	J
		S	4600 MPS		
		♠	4		
		♥	765		
		♦	K965		
		♣	AKQ54		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
4♠ by E	Made 4	E/W +620	♣ A

Facts Determined at the Table

Before making the opening lead, South asked about the 3♣ bid and West said it was a long suit game try, which East immediately corrected to a short suit game try, which West confirmed was the actual partnership agreement. South called the director and said that if he had been told 3♣ was a short suit game try, he would have doubled 3♣. North said after the hand that if his partner had doubled 3♣, he would have bid 5♣ over 4♠.

Director Ruling

The director polled four players who said that they saw no difference between the two understandings. The director allowed the table result to stand.

Director's Ruling	4♠ by E, Made 4, E/W +620
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The Appeal

North/South appealed the ruling, and were the only players to attend the review. South said he did not want to double a natural game try in hopes that his opponents were in the process of having an accident and about to bid a game off 2-3 quick club losers. He said that he did not have that problem over a short suit game try as an accident by East/West was no longer likely.

Panel Findings

The reviewer polled three players around 5000 masterpoints each. Two of the players doubled and one passed given the explanation that 3♣ was a natural game try. When given the corrected information that 3♣ was a short suit game try, none of the players indicated that they wished to change their call. All said that their decision was not affected by the Alert or lack thereof. The panel therefore ruled that there had been misinformation, but it had not resulted in damage to North/South according to the standard of Law 12B1. The panel allowed the table result to stand.

Panel Decision	4♠ by E, Made 4, E/W +620
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Eric Bell
Member	Marilyn Wells
Member	Kevin Perkins

Subject of Appeal: Misinformation	Case: R5
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Event	10K Pairs	Event DIC	Charlie MacCracken
Date	07/23/2016	Session	Second Qualifying


Auction

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1NT ¹	2♣ ²	Dbl ³
3♣	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: 11-14 HCP
2: Explained as DONT
3: Stayman

Hand Record

Board	27	N	3550 MPS	E	5500 MPS
Dealer	S	♠	AJ103	♠	Q5
Vul	None	♥	K103	♥	Q94
		♦	KJ	♦	A86432
		♣	7642	♣	A8
W	5800 MPS				
♠	984	S	2900 MPS		
♥	J8652	♠	K762		
♦	105	♥	A7		
♣	KJ9	♦	Q97		
		♣	Q1053		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
4♠ by N	Down 2	E/W +100	

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was called after play was over and East disclosed the actual partnership agreement of 2♣ as showing a one suited hand. North said that he would not have bid 3♠ had he been given a correct explanation of 2♣. He said that the auction with the given explanation marked his partner with very short clubs, which was no longer true with the correct explanation

Director Ruling

The director ruled that E/W had gained an advantage because of the misinformation and awarded an adjusted score per Law 21B3 and Law 12. The director ruled that if North had passed 3♣, East would be required to pass because of the unauthorized information. It was judged that East would take four tricks in that contract. The score was adjusted to 3♣ by East, down 5, N/S +250.

Director's Ruling	3♣ by E, Down 5, N/S +250
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The Appeal

East/West appealed the ruling and were the only players to attend the review. They said that North had no reason to assume his partner had four spades from the actual auction. They added that South did have the four spades that North had hoped for and that North/South were still too high because North overbid.

Panel Findings

The reviewer polled 4 players between 3000 and 5000 masterpoints each. With the information given at the table, three of the players bid 3♣ with the North hand and one passed. When given the correct information, the three players who bid 3♣ with the North hand all changed their call to pass. All four players indicated that bidding with the North hand was much more attractive with the original explanation because South was now marked with short clubs. The panel therefore upheld the director's original ruling of 3♣ by East, down 5, N/S +250.

Because there was no player polling involved in the original ruling, and because the reviewer was not able to poll players until after he met with East/West, the panel judged the review to have merit.

Panel Decision	3♣ by E, Down 5, N/S +250
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Eric Bell
Member	Marilyn Wells
Member	Kevin Perkins

Subject of Appeal:	Tempo/Unauthorized Information	Case:	R6
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Event	1 st Saturday ABC Pairs	Event DIC	Dianne Barton-Paine
Date	07/23/2016	Session	Second Session


Auction

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♥
2♣	3♣	4♣	Pass ¹
Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥
5♣	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Break in Tempo

Hand Record

Board	5	N	7030 MPS		
Dealer	N	♠	1093		
		♥	A108		
Vul	N/S	♦	AQ1087		
		♣	74		
W	3100 MPS			E	16,800 MPS
♠	Q874			♠	K65
♥	62			♥	QJ9
♦	5			♦	J64
♣	AQ9853			♣	J1062
		S	10,360 MPS		
		♠	AJ2		
		♥	K7543		
		♦	K932		
		♣	K		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
5♣X by W	Down 3	N/S +500	

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was called during the auction, and again at the end of play. East felt that there was a break in tempo prior to South's second call. East stated he believed there was a 5-6 second break before the pass. N/S agreed on the time, but felt that it was not a BIT, considering the level of the auction.

Director Ruling

The directing staff determined that, even though the BIT was only 5-6 seconds, for this auction it was a BIT. They polled players with similar masterpoint holding as North who would either bid 3♣ with the hand or would be comfortable doing so. From the poll, the directors determined that the BIT suggested that action would be more profitable than inaction, and that pass was a logical alternative. They adjusted the result to 4♣ by West, down two, N/S +100.

Director's Ruling	4♣ by W, Down 2, N/S +100
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The Appeal

E/W appealed the ruling, believing that the minimal hesitation was not a significant BIT at this level of the auction.

Panel Findings

The panel deferred to the table director's determination that, for this auction, the 5-6 second break was a break in tempo. Once the panel determined that, it considered the polling results. Of the eleven players polled (masterpoints

between 4000 and 18,000), two were not counted as they could not “buy into” this auction, five passed with the North hand when the auction came back to them, and four doubled.

The panel determined that pass was a logical alternative and bidding 4♦ was demonstrably suggested by the tempo of South’s pass (Law 16B). North’s 3♣ bid was intended to show a limit raise of South’s 1♥ opener and when South passed 4♣ “slowly”, he was declining the invitation. The North hand has no more than it said that it had originally. The panel upheld the original table ruling of 4♣ by West, down 2, N/S +100.

Panel Decision	4♣ by W, Down 2, N/S +100
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Marilyn Wells
Member	Eric Bell
Member	Kevin Perkins

Subject of Appeal:	Misinformation	Case:	R7
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Event	10K Pairs	Event DIC	Charlie MacCracken
Date	07/23/2016	Session	Second Qualifying


Auction

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1NT ¹	Pass
2♠ ²	Pass	3♣ ³	Pass
Pass	3♥	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: 14-17 HCP
2: Transfer to clubs
3: Alerted as "likes clubs"

Hand Record

Board	24	N	1200 MPS		
Dealer	W	♠ 83	♥ AQJ53		
Vul	None	♦ J9853	♣ 5		
W	6500 MPS			E	9500 MPS
♠ Q109	♥ 97			♠ A752	♥ K1082
♦ 106	♣ J109764			♦ K2	♣ AK2
				S	550 MPS
		♠ KJ64	♥ 64		
		♦ AQ74	♣ Q83		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
3♥X by N	Down 4	E/W +800	♣ K

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was called after the play of the hand. West explained that the 3♣ bid by East was "likes clubs". When asked what that meant he said that he answered "at least an honor with three." Both North and South only heard "at least an honor."

After 8 tricks, declarer had determined that East had a 4-4-2-3 or 4-4-3-2 hand. He asked about the lead of the ♣K. There was nothing marked on the E/W card. West said that they generally lead A from AK. He was then asked when his partner would lead the K from AK and was told "generally from AK doubleton." North played East for the AK doubleton and went down 4 doubled. He felt he was misled or not given the best information that he could have been. When he was asked later why he led the K and not the A, East said he really didn't think about it. They were the same, so he just pulled one.

The five card end position was

	♠ —	
	♥ 5	
	♦ 9 8 5 3	
	♣ —	
♠ —		♠ 7
♥ —		♥ 10
♦ 10		♦ 2
♣ 10 9 7 4		♣ A 2
	♠ J	
	♥ —	
	♦ Q 7 4	
	♣ Q	

North was on lead at trick nine. He led the ♠9 and, believing that East has started with K10x, floated the 9 to West's 10. At that point he lost control of the hand and went down 4 doubled.

Director Ruling

With West showing clubs, and East "liking" clubs and having at least 14 HCP, North should be in a position to know that East held the AK of clubs. With West not raising clubs over 3♥, it is unlikely he has seven of them, so therefore East must have three. North made the wrong decision about the layout on his own not due to the explanation of when either A or K is led. The damage was therefore self-inflicted.

Director's Ruling	3♥X by N, Down 4, E/W +800
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The Appeal

N/S appealed the ruling. The panel spoke with the North player who explained his point of view and how ambiguous answers to the lead question and the answer given when he asked for information about "liking clubs."

Panel Findings

The panel found that E/W failed its responsibility to make sure that N/S were given correct, full and accurate explanations of their partnership agreements. In that neither North nor South heard the "with three" part of the explanation for 3♣, it was difficult for declarer to "get it right." If he knew that East had three clubs with an honor, he would make the hand. The panel changed the ruling for both sides to 3♥X by N, making 3, N/S +530.

Panel Decision	3♥X by N, Made 3, N/S +530
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Marilyn Wells
Member	Eric Bell
Member	Kevin Perkins


Subject of Appeal:	Tempo/Unauthorized Information	Case:	R8
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Event	A/X Swiss Teams	Event DIC	Dianne Barton-Paine
Date	07/28/2016	Session	First Session

Auction

West	North	East	South
		1NT ¹	Pass ²
2♣	2♦	2♥	3♦
3♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Hand Record

Board	30	N	Suman Agarwal		
Dealer	E	♠	1073		
		♥	K10		
Vul	None	♦	A109632		
		♣	87		
W	Rose Meltzer			E	John Mohan
♠	Q984			♠	AK
♥	Q874			♥	6532
♦	75			♦	Q4
♣	953			♣	AJ642
		S	Vijay Vasudevan		
		♠	J652		
		♥	AJ9		
		♦	KJ8		
		♣	KQ10		

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: 14-16 HCP
2: Break in Tempo

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
3♥X by E	Down 3	N/S +500	♦ 8

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was called after North bid 3♦. Both sides agreed to the BIT by South. The director was called back at the end of play, and was asked to examine North's 2♦ bid, in light of the UI from South's out of tempo pass. E/W play Garbage Stayman, and West's plan was to correct a potential 2♦ Stayman response to a non invitational 2♥. South said that if North had passed 2♣, he would have doubled 2♥ to show values. He did not have a bid available over 1NT, as they play Meckwell, which does not have a value showing call directly over 1NT.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

The TD polled six players in the A/X Swiss, to find out whether they would bid 2♦ with the North hand without the UI. Four players passed. Two players bid 2♦, but said it was close.

Director Ruling

Based upon the player poll, Pass was established as a logical alternative to bidding. Proceeding from South's declared double of 2♥, the director adjusted the contract to 3♦ by North, making 3, after a proposed auction of 1NT-P-2♣-P-2♥-Dbl-P-3♦-P-P-P, N/S + 110.

Director's Ruling	3♦ by N, Made 3, N/S +110
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The Appeal

N/S appealed. Before the Review, the Reviewer noted that 3♦ would always make four if declarer found the ♦Q. North, South, and West attended the Review. North stated that he would always bid 2♦, for the lead. South stated that West's 3♥ bid was poor, and that if North had been forced to pass over 2♣, he definitely would have doubled 2♥, and following North's 3♦ bid, he might have bid 3NT. Further, even if he didn't bid 3NT, West might have made the same unsuccessful 3♥ bid that she did at the table.

West agreed that her 3♥ bid was very poor, but said that if she had been able to pass 2♥, she would never have bid 3♥ later, because East would have first had the chance to do so himself.

Panel Findings

The Reviewer conducted several additional player polls. He confirmed that roughly half of North's peers would have passed over 2♣. He also confirmed that a BIT by South suggested that bidding would be more successful than passing. No player, after being shown the South hand, and told no systemic call was available to come in over 1NT, wanted to enter the auction after 2♥. Of the players who passed with the North hand over 2♣, 2/3 passed after 2♥-P-P.

For N/S, the Panel decided that South's BIT over 1NT demonstrably suggested that North not pass over 2♣, and that Pass was clearly a LA. Since the polling also demonstrated that South might not double 2♥, and that a subsequent pass by North was a LA, the Panel assigned a contract of 2♥ by East, down 2, N/S +100, per Laws 16B3 & 12C

For E/W the Panel decided, per Law 12C1b, ("when the non-offending side has contributed to its own damage... by a wild or gambling action, it does not receive relief in the adjustment for such part of the damage as is self-inflicted."), that the 3♥ bid qualified as a such an action. The table result was restored for E/W, 3♥X by East, down 3, E/W -500

Panel Decision	N/S: 2♥ by E, Down 2, N/S +100 E/W: 3♥X by E, Down 3, E/W -500
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Gary Zeiger
Member	Matt Koltnow
Member	Kevin Perkins

Subject of Appeal:	Unauthorized Information	Case:	R9
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Event	Red Ribbon Pairs	Event DIC	Jay Bates
Date	07/29/2016	Session	First Qualifying


Auction

West	North	East	South
	1♣	Pass	Pass
1NT ¹	2♣	2♥ ²	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: 12-14 HCP
2: Alerted as transfer

Hand Record

Board	13	N	1180 MPS	
Dealer	N	♠ KQ ♥ K3 ♦ K103 ♣ QJ9542		
Vul	Both			
W	360 MPS			E
♠ J983 ♥ A52 ♦ AQ2 ♣ K103				♠ A ♥ J10864 ♦ 765 ♣ A876
		S	2140 MPS	
		♠ 1076542 ♥ Q97 ♦ J984 ♣ (void)		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
3♥ by E	Made 3	E/W +140	♠ 5

Facts Determined at the Table

East thought that 2♥ was natural after North's 2♣ rebid. The director asked what 2♠ by West would show in this sequence and East said she thought it would be natural. East/West play that a direct jump to 3♥ would have shown 5/5 in the majors.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

The director polled four players and all four felt that 3♥ should be showing a 6-card suit and would have rebid 2NT over 2♠.

Director Ruling

Based upon the player poll, the director judged that East made use of the UI of West's Alert and explanation in choosing between logical alternatives. Continuing from the information gleaned in the poll, he then assigned a continuation of 2NT by East, 3♠ by West (who still thinks his partner has spades, but realizing that East failed to overcall 1♠ over 1♣C). The director felt that South would double 3♠ and East would run to 3NT. Accordingly, the director assigned a result of 3NT by West, down 1, N/S +100, per Laws 16B1a and Law 12.

Director's Ruling	3NT by W, Down 1, N/S +100
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The Appeal

East/West appealed the ruling and were the only players to attend the review. West said that when he bid 2♠ over 2♥, this would create an impossible auction for his partner who would realize he couldn't have five spades and have balanced with 1NT over 1♣. East/West felt the auction itself gave West the information she needed to realize that an accident was in progress and thus the 3♥ bid should have been allowed.

Panel Findings

The reviewer asked the table director and confirmed that she had not asked any of the players she had polled if they recognized that something was wrong with the auction. The reviewer then polled four additional players between 1000-3500 masterpoints and all of them bid 2NT over 2♠. None of the four players questioned the auction given.

When prompted by the reviewer, two of them did allow that they thought the auction was rather unusual and two gave no indication of such. None of the polled players stated that they thought West might have interpreted the 2♥ bid as a transfer. Surprising as it was to the panel, when eight players in the appellants' peer group were not awakened by the strangeness of the auction, the panel had to reject West's claim that the auction was sufficient to "wake up" East at this point.

The auction continuation was discussed as it was mentioned that West might have bid 4♠ over 2NT and that if he bid only 3♠, South might not have doubled. Three players were polled and rebid only 3♠ over the 2NT rebid. However, a poll of three additional players of the East hand revealed that they would run to 3NT before waiting for South to double 3♠, stating that 3♠ could not possibly be the right place. The assigned result of 3NT by West, down 1, N/S +100, was therefore confirmed.

Because the question of whether the auction was self-alerting was not considered in the original ruling, the panel judged the appeal to have merit.

Panel Decision	3NT by W, Down 1, N/S +100
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Eric Bell
Member	Gary Zeiger
Member	Jenni Carmichael