

Subject of Appeal:	Misinformation	Case:	R1
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Event	1 st Sunday Daylight Open Pairs	Event DIC	Dianne Barton-Paine
Date	11/26/2017	Session	Second Session

Auction

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♣ ¹	Pass	2♣ ²	Pass
2NT ³	Pass	3♦ ⁴	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Hand Record

Board	15	N	9900 MPS		
Dealer	S	♠	987		
		♥	A1052		
Vul	N/S	♦	A854		
		♣	94		
W	400 MPS			E	400 MPS
♠	A432			♠	KQ5
♥	J876			♥	KQ3
♦	KJ2			♦	6
♣	KJ			♣	A108763
		S	13,900 MPS		
		♠	J106		
		♥	94		
		♦	Q10973		
		♣	Q52		

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Could be short
2: Limit raise or better for clubs
3: Stoppers in majors
4: No Alert, disputed meaning

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
3NT by W	Made 4	E/W +430	♠9

Facts Determined at the Table

North led the ♠9 and N/S called the director as soon as dummy appeared. N/S said that East indicated that his bid showed shortness in diamonds. This was disputed by E/W who said that they had no agreement as to what 3♦ meant. South said away from the table that he would have doubled 3♦ if he had been Alerted that 3♦ was artificial. During the play of the hand, West guessed clubs incorrectly, finessing into South. N/S stated that if North had led a diamond in response to her partner's double, and South made the same misguess in clubs, they would have defeated 3NT.

The table director later spoke to East and West individually, and both indicated that they thought the 3♦ bid asked for a stopper but that they had not discussed this bid. West indicated that she was as completely surprised as everyone else when her partner put down a singleton diamond.

Director Ruling

The table director ruled that E/W did not have an agreement as to the meaning of the 3♦ bid, and therefore no misinformation had been given. The table result of 3NT by West, making 4, E/W +430, was ruled to stand.

Director's Ruling	3NT by W, Made 4, E/W +430
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The Review

N/S appealed the ruling and were the only players who met with the reviewer. South argued that East's hand indicated that he thought that the partnership had some understanding of what 3♦ was since he clearly did not mean the 3♦ bid as natural. N/S felt that East had an obligation to correct what he thought was a failure to Alert by his partner before the opening lead was made.

Panel Findings

The panel judged that East's hand, as well as East and West's both saying independently that they thought 3♦ asked for a diamond stopper, indicated that East likely thought that his 3♦ bid had a meaning which had not been disclosed by his partner. They therefore felt that East should have corrected what he thought was his partner's failure to Alert his bid, per Law 20F5b.

The reviewer polled ten players of comparable experience level to South as to their bid over the 3♦ call:

- 1) when they were not told anything about 3♦;
- 2) when they were told East/West had no agreement as to what 3♦ was;
- 3) when they were told that 3♦ asked for a stopper.

Five players passed 3♦ in all three cases; two players doubled in all three cases; two players passed in case (1) but doubled in cases (2) and (3); and one player passed in cases (1) and (2) but doubled in case (3).

The panel then considered whether a double of 3♦ by South would tip West off to the correct play in the club suit. The reviewer polled 5 players of comparable experience to West as a play problem in 3NT given the auction plus a double of 3♦ by South. Three of the five players polled correctly finessed clubs into North—one specifically citing that South's double indicated that he was likely the danger hand in diamonds—and two did not, taking the club finesse into South. Therefore the panel considered that while the double might make West more likely to take the correct line, it was not automatic.

The panel awarded a weighted score per Law 12C1c: 70% of 3NT by West, making four, E/W +430, and 30% of 3NT by West, down 2, N/S +100.

Panel Decision	70% 3NT by W, Made 4, E/W +430 30% 3NT by W, Down 2, N/S +100
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Eric Bell
Member	Gary Zeiger
Member	Jenni Carmichael