

Subject of Appeal:	Unauthorized Information	Case:	N2
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Event	Lebhar IMP Pairs	Event DIC	Matt Koltnow
Date	03/11/2017	Session	First Final

Auction

West	North	East	South
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 as relay to ♣

Hand Record

Board	4	N	Brian Glubok		
Dealer	W	♠	QJ5		
		♥	J64		
Vul	Both	♦	Q1086		
		♣	A32		
W	Ray Jotcham			E	Richard Chen
♠	K76			♠	10983
♥	A1092			♥	Q8
♦	K95			♦	AJ7
♣	Q76			♣	KJ108
		S	David Treitel		
		♠	A42		
		♥	K753		
		♦	432		
		♣	954		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
3NT by W	Made 4	E/W +630	♦6

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was called after play of the hand had ended. East had intended his 2NT bid as a natural invitational bid. East/West play a system where 2NT is a transfer to clubs; invitational notrump hands are bid another way. East had unauthorized information by the unexpected alert of his invitational 2NT bid.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

Five players were polled with the East hand. All bid as East the first two rounds. On the third round, one player passed, while the other four bid 3NT. Three of the players who bid 3NT said the auction was impossible, while the fourth said that, although the 3♣ bid is possibly natural in theory, East's holding in clubs made it clear that West couldn't hold strong enough clubs for this to be the case. This player did not believe West could hold a club suit such that he would be trying to "escape" from 2NT to a "safer" part score in clubs.

Director Ruling

Although E/W did not agree on the meaning of 2NT, the question was one of Unauthorized Information for East rather than misinformation for N/S. Based upon the poll results, the director ruled that Pass was not a Logical Alternative under Law 16B2 and ruled that the table result stood.

Director's Ruling	3NT by W, Made 4, E/W +630
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The Review

North/South requested a review of the ruling. They believed, based on the poll finding one player that would pass and another that felt that 3♣ was possibly natural in this auction, that pass was a logical alternative. The reviewer conducted his own poll.

In polling, similar results to the original poll were gathered. Of the seven players polled, only one was found that would pass. Follow up questions were asked of the player that passed. It was found that the player that passed was unfamiliar with the methods used by E/W. The player was also unable to construct a hand for partner that would bid as given. Many of those polled that bid also play the methods of this pair, and some questioned whether this pair played the rest of the system that accompanies this bid being a relay.

Panel Findings

Although it was found that some players might pass, it was determined that it was likely to only be those unfamiliar with the methods of E/W. Without the Alert, a player that plays the methods given would most likely realize that the 3♣ was unusual enough to determine that the 2NT bid was misinterpreted and bid again. Therefore, the table result was allowed to stand. Due to the finding of a pass in the original ruling, the appeal was deemed to have merit.

Experts Consulted: Janice Seamon-Molson, six players of the E/W masterpoint level

Panel Decision	3NT by W, Made 4, E/W +630
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Kevin Perkins
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