

<b>Subject of Appeal:</b>	Unauthorized Information	<b>Case:</b>	N6
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<b>Event</b>	Truscott Senior Swiss	<b>Event DIC</b>	Ken Horwedel
<b>Date</b>	07/26/2016	<b>Session</b>	First Final

### Auction

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♣
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT <sup>1</sup>	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

### Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Alerted

### Hand Record

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

<b>Final Contract</b>	<b>Result of Play</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Opening Lead</b>
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.

<b>Director's Ruling</b>	<b>3♣ by S, Down 3, E/W +150</b>
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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.

<b>Panel Decision</b>	<b>3NT by S, Made 3, N/S +400</b>
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### Panel Members

<b>Reviewer</b>	Kevin Perkins
<b>Advisor</b>	Matt Smith