

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		
Vul	Both	♦ K103	♣ QJ9542		
W	360 MPS			E	680 MPS
♠ J983				♠ A	
♥ A52				♥ J10864	
♦ AQ2				♦ 765	
♣ K103			♣ 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