

Subject of Appeal:	Unauthorized Information	Case:	N8
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Event	NABC Fast Pairs	Event DIC	Mike Roberts
Date	03/20/2016	Session	Second Final


Auction

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

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Alerted as Strong, Major suit
2: Intended as Pass or Correct

Hand Record

Board	18	N	Marty Nelson		
Dealer	E	♠	J32		
		♥	KJ943		
		♦	10983		
Vul	N/S	♣	3		
W	Val Kovachev			E	Lynne Rosenbaum
♠	K6			♠	Q10854
♥	A6			♥	Q5
♦	KQ7			♦	A4
♣	AKJ952			♣	Q874
		S	Gil Cohen		
		♠	A97		
		♥	10872		
		♦	J652		
		♣	106		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
4NT by W	Made 6	E/W +490	♥ 4

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was called to the table at the end of the auction. East had alerted and explained 3NT as a strong hand with a long major, the type hand that most open with four of the major. Her bid of 4♥ was intended as pass or correct. West had intended 3NT as to play. North/South believed West used the unauthorized information from the alert and explanation to rebid 4NT. E/W play transfers over other strong No Trump sequences.

West maintained that any hand that would transfer over a "quick" 3NT bid would have opened in first seat at favorable vulnerability. When East was asked what she would have done if West had bid 4♠ rather than 4NT, she said she would have passed.

Director Ruling

West had UI from the alert and explanation East gave for 3NT. Since West's claim about a first seat opening at favorable vulnerability was impossible to prove, it was ruled that 4♠ was a logical alternative to 4NT. The UI clearly suggested not bidding 4♠, in the director's opinion. The result was therefore adjusted to 4♠ by West, making 5, E/W +450.

Director's Ruling	4♠ by W, Made 5, E/W +450
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The Appeal

E/W appealed the ruling, and West, North & South attended the hearing. West explained that the partnership style was to open any hand in first or second seat at favorable vulnerability where they held 6-7 HCP and a long suit. It was therefore impossible for partner to hold a hand that would transfer, so he had authorized information from the auction that duplicated the UI.

Committee Findings

In spite of the testimony to systemic agreements, the Committee believed it was possible that East could have easily held a bad hand with long spades and intended 4♥ as a transfer (for example, ♠J10xxxx ♥Qx ♦xxx ♣xx). West used the UI from East's alert in choosing from between logical alternatives. Therefore, the director's ruling was upheld.

Committee Decision	4♠ by W, Made 5, E/W +450
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Committee Members

Chair	Daniel Korbelt
Member	Gary Soules
Member	Dave Westfall