

Subject of Appeal:	Unauthorized Information	Case:	N5
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Event	Blue Ribbon Pairs	Event DIC	Harry Falk
Date	12/01/2015	Session	Second Qualifying


Auction

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	Pass	1NT ¹
Pass	2NT ²	Pass	3♦
Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: 11-16 HCP
2: Explained as Diamonds

Hand Record

Board	4	N	Bill Staats	
Dealer	W	♠ Q54 ♥ 865 ♦ QJ3 ♣ AQ93		
Vul	Both			
W	Mark Dahl		E	Lloyd Arvedon
♠	A10873		♠	J92
♥	A2		♥	K1074
♦	854		♦	1096
♣	K76		♣	J54
		S	Bill Heid	
		♠	K6	
		♥	QJ93	
		♦	AK72	
		♣	1082	

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
3NT by S	Made 3	N/S +600	♠ 7

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was summoned at the end of the auction. 2NT had been explained as showing a diamond suit. The actual partnership agreement over a balancing 1NT was natural and invitational. North/South do not use transfers at the 2 level over a balancing 1NT. Over an opening 1NT, the N/S agreement was that 2NT showed diamonds, and 3♦ accepts a game try. East/West stated that they would have made the same calls if the Alert and mistaken explanation had not been made, but they believed that the Unauthorized Information from the Alert might have influenced North to bid 3NT.

Director Ruling

Due to time constraints at the end of the evening session, the director was unable to conduct a player poll regarding the auction and North's hand. After discussion amongst the directors, it was decided that although North had UI from the Alert, there was no logical alternative to North bidding 3NT, regardless of whatever meaning could be ascribed to 3♦. Therefore, the table result of 3NT by South, making 3, N/S +600, was confirmed.

Director's Ruling	3NT by S, Made 3, N/S +600
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The Appeal

E/W appealed the ruling and attended the committee hearing. They argued that the UI suggests bidding 3NT, as the explanation told North that they might be playing in a 3-3 diamond fit. Without the UI, it was possible that South had a weak hand with a five card or longer diamond suit and was pulling to a safer contract. Pass would be a logical alternative in such a case, and here would produce a less successful result.

Committee Findings

The committee acknowledged that there was UI due to the Alert and explanation, and the UI does demonstrably suggest bidding 3NT over 3♦ since there may not be a diamond fit. Pass was the only other alternative to 3NT.

However, the committee judged that 3♦ could not possibly be a correction of the part score strain with a minimum balancing no trump and long diamonds. Since North held a spade honor, diamond support and was very no trump oriented, Pass was not a logical alternative to 3NT. Therefore, the committee upheld the director ruling, 3NT by South, making 3, N/S +600.

Committee Decision	3NT by S, Made 3, N/S +600
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Committee Members

Chairman	Richard Hopper
Scribe	Greg Herman
Member	Joel Wooldridge
Member	Patty Tucker
Member	Don Kern