

Subject of Appeal: Misinformation	Case: N8
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Event	Blue Ribbon Pairs	Event DIC	Harry Falk
Date	12/02/2015	Session	First Semifinal

Auction

West	North	East	South
		1NT	Db1 ¹
2♦ ²	2♠	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Explained 4 Major/5 minor
2: Transfer to Hearts

Hand Record

Board	22	N	Jacek Pszczola		
Dealer	E	♠	KJ8743		
		♥	(void)		
		♦	J10762		
Vul	E/W	♣	53		
W	Chris Willenken			E	Alison Wilson
♠	AQ5			♠	1096
♥	J10853			♥	AK976
♦	Q9			♦	A85
♣	1062			♣	A4
		S	Jared Lilienstein		
		♠	2		
		♥	Q42		
		♦	K43		
		♣	KQJ987		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
4♥ by E	Down 2	N/S +200	♣ K

Facts Determined at the Table

East/West summoned the director after play of the hand was over. North had explained South's double as showing a four card major and a five card minor. The actual partnership agreement was a one suited hand. As North/South were defenders, South could not correct the misinformation until after play had finished. When asked if there would have been any change in the bidding if the proper explanation had been given, all at the table agreed that the auction would have been the same. West stated that East would have taken a different line of play with the correct information. East made no statement regarding how she would have played the hand.

The play had gone ♣K to the Ace, followed by the Ace and King of hearts. Declarer now led a low diamond, won by South with the King. He first cashed the ♥Q and the ♣Q then led the ♣J, which was ruffed by Declarer. She now led the ♠10 through to North's Jack. North returned a diamond, which East won with the Ace, overtaking the Queen, so she could repeat the Spade finesse. East had played all the low hearts in Dummy under the Ace, King & Queen.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

The director polled several players concerning the play of the hand. While all agreed the incorrect explanation provided misinformation, they faulted Declarer's poor management of the trump suit as being the real culprit for the result achieved on the hand. If she had unblocked a high heart in Dummy under either the King or Queen, she would have been able to win the ♦Q, come to her hand with the ♥9, and then cash the ♦A to pitch a spade in Dummy before taking the finesse. This line would result in no worse than down one, regardless of the distribution of the spade suit.

Director Ruling

While there was misinformation on the hand, the player poll showed that the damage was the result of Declarer's decisions in the play of the hand rather than a result of the misinformation. As East's play of the trump suit in Dummy was deemed the cause of the damage, and that was not related to the irregularity, per Law 12C1b, no adjustment was necessary. The table result of 4♥ by East, down 2, N/S +200 stands.

Director's Ruling	4♥ by E, Down 2, N/S +200
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The Appeal

E/W appealed the ruling and West and North attended the committee. West argued that with proper information, there were many lines by which East could have certainly come to at least nine tricks. With the MI, she felt the double finesse in Spades to be the percentage play, as South should have four spades and the honors would likely be split.

Committee Findings

The committee agreed that MI was given. However, the play by Declarer was so poor that it severed the link between the MI and the result. When you have ten card trump suit, split five-five between Dummy and Declarer's hand, you should be able most times to maintain communication between the two hands. This is what Declarer failed to do and what caused the result. This had no connection to the misinformation during the auction.

The committee also judged that the appeal lacked merit because this was the original ruling and no additional information or bridge logic was introduced as part of the appeal. Therefore, E/W was assigned an Appeal without Merit Warning.

Committee Decision	4♥ by E, Down 2, N/S +200
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Committee Members

Chairman	Richard Popper
Scribe	James Thurtell
Member	Meyer Kotkin
Member	Greg Herman
Member	Scott Stearns