

<b>Subject of Appeal:</b>	Unauthorized Information	<b>Case:</b>	N9
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<b>Event</b>	Freeman Mixed BAM Teams	<b>Event DIC</b>	Steve Bates
<b>Date</b>	08/13/2015	<b>Session</b>	Second Final


### Auction

West	North	East	South
1♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	1♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
1NT <sup>3</sup>	Pass	2♥ <sup>4</sup>	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

### Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Strong, 15+ HCP
2: 5+ ♠, Game forcing
3: Balanced, Unlimited, <4♠
4: Intended as Re-transfer

### Hand Record

<b>Board</b>	<b>28</b>	N	Ida Groenkvist		
<b>Dealer</b>	<b>W</b>	♠	(void)		
		♥	109854		
		♦	J9843		
<b>Vul</b>	<b>N/S</b>	♣	J95		
W	Kit Woolsey			E	Sally Woolsey
♠	A7			♠	J109832
♥	KQ62			♥	J
♦	A72			♦	KQ6
♣	K876			♣	Q104
		S	Greg Humphreys		
		♠	KQ654		
		♥	A73		
		♦	105		
		♣	A32		

<b>Final Contract</b>	<b>Result of Play</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Opening Lead</b>
4NT by W	Down 1	N/S +50	

### Facts Determined at the Table

The director was summoned at the beginning of the fourth round by North/South. The hand had been played in the second round. East had intended the 2♥ call as a re-transfer to spades, but West had not Alerted. After the auction, East had volunteered the information concerning the failure to Alert, but West said that was not their agreement. When asked if the 3♥ call might have been a super accept, E/W said that they do not use super accepts in game forcing auctions. N/S felt that the Unauthorized Information from the failure to alert might have influenced East's bidding and resulted in damage to them.

### Director Ruling

The failure to Alert did provide East with Unauthorized Information. However, the 3♥ response to the "re-transfer" provided Authorized Information to East that duplicated the UI, as it was impossible under E/W systemic agreements. Accordingly, no adjustment was necessary to the table result.

<b>Director's Ruling</b>	<b>4NT by W, Down 1, N/S +50</b>
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### The Appeal

The North/South players appealed the director's ruling, and North, East and West attended the committee, along with the Captain of the N/S pair's team. In North's opinion, if 2♥ was intended as a re-transfer, but was not alerted, this provided UI to East. If 2H had been alerted, then East would have interpreted 3♥ as a super-accept, 4♣ as a cuebid, and 4NT as Blackwood, resulting in a higher contract that would have gone down more, possibly a lot more. Instead, the UI tipped East that the auction had gone off the rails and enabled her to bail out at the first plausible opportunity.

West argued that from his vantage, with a promising spade fit, he had several alternatives to 1NT at his second turn. He could have raised spades directly to make partner captain, or he could have initiated a relay sequence to get specific information about East's hand. 1NT was more neutral, though still unlimited, and allowed East to describe her hand further.

West interpreted 2♥ as a natural bid, the actual systemic agreement. His 3♥ was a raise, 4♣ was a cuebid, and 4NT was a keycard answer (showing three keycards for hearts) based on West's interpretation of 4♠ as a keycard ask for hearts. East got lucky that the 4NT "response" was a plausible contract that she could pass.

West said that systemically they do not super-accept in game-forcing auctions. Over transfers, they simply accept and await further description, even with very strong hands. West noted that with such a hand, he could have chosen to take control on the previous round. This systemic knowledge was authorized information to East, who knew that something had gone wrong based on the 3♥ bid itself.

### Committee Findings

To the Committee, the major question in the decision was how much authorized information did East have. Even without systemic knowledge about "no super-accepts in game forcing auctions", East could see that 3♥ was a peculiar bid, since it bypassed several lower calls that could have been used to super-accept. Also, East knew that if West had a very strong hand (strong enough to think about slam opposite a hand like East's), he probably would have chosen a relay sequence on the previous round. Thus, 3♥ was a powerful indication that something had gone wrong.

East's 3♠ and 4♠ were normal attempts to slow the auction down, regardless of what was happening. Over 4NT, the UI did not demonstrably suggest that passing was more likely to be successful than it would have been to a player having only authorized information. Therefore, the Committee upheld the director's ruling of letting the table result stand

<b>Committee Decision</b>	<b>4NT by W, Down 1, N/S +50</b>
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### Committee Members

<b>Chair</b>	Bart Bramley
<b>Member</b>	Lou Reich
<b>Member</b>	Mike Passell
<b>Member</b>	Ray Miller
<b>Member</b>	Meyer Kotkin