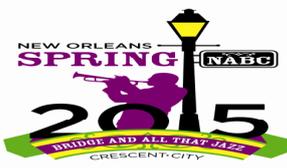


<b>APPEAL</b>	<b>NON-NABC+ TWO</b>
Subject	Misinformation
DIC	Susan Doe
Event	North American Pairs, Flt. B
Session	Second Qualifying
Date	March 15, 2015

BD#	<b>29</b>
VUL	<b>Both</b>
DLR	<b>N</b>

<b>2900 masterpoints</b>	
♠	KQ1076
♥	1087
♦	2
♣	Q1075

<b>1900 masterpoints</b>	
♠	J842
♥	AK2
♦	KQ874
♣	2

	
<b>1300 masterpoints</b>	
♠	53
♥	Q9653
♦	65
♣	AJ94

<b>1425 masterpoints</b>	
♠	A9
♥	J4
♦	AJ1093
♣	K863

West	North	East	South
	<b>P</b>	<b>1NT<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>P</b>
<b>2♣<sup>(2)</sup></b>	<b>P</b>	<b>2♦<sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>P</b>
<b>2♠<sup>(4)</sup></b>	<b>P</b>	<b>3♣<sup>(5)</sup></b>	<b>P</b>
<b>3NT</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>

Final Contract	<b>3NT by East</b>
Opening Lead	<b>♦6</b>
Table Result	<b>Made 4, N/S -630</b>
Director Ruling	<b>3NT by E, Made 4, N/S -630</b>
Panel Decision	<b>3NT by E, Made 4, N/S -630</b>

(1)	13-15 balanced
(2)	Asks for description of hand. NOT Stayman
(3)	4+ diamonds, and probably no 4-card major. Not alerted or explained
(4)	Alerted, explained during the auction as West's "stronger" major.
(5)	4 clubs. Explained when asked.

**The Facts:** The director was called after the opening lead, and again at the end of play. The East/West pair had some apparent language difficulties. The 2♠ bid was explained as West's "stronger" major. Since East persisted in that explanation while looking at the dummy, it appears that she meant his "longer" major.

Declarer won the opening lead, and cashed five rounds of diamonds, ending in dummy. North discarded two hearts, a spade, and a club. South threw two hearts and a spade. Declarer next led the ♠2 from dummy, and, when North played low, inserted the 9, which held the trick. Eventually she threw South in with a heart, to force a club return, giving her a tenth trick.

The North player contended that, had he been told that 2♠ showed West's "longer" major, rather than his "stronger", he would have doubled the final contract, suggesting a spade lead.

**The Ruling:** The Director ruled that the explanation of 2♠ was not sufficient misinformation to cause damage. The ♦6 lead did not disadvantage the defense. Also, although the defenders were not yet aware of it when they called the director, the failure to alert the 2♦ bid was deemed not proximate to the cause of the result. Since the offending side did not gain from the irregularity, no adjustment to the score was necessary.

**The Appeal:** North/South appealed, claiming:

- (1) North would have doubled the final contract, had he not been misinformed.
- (2) South, had he been told that 2♦ showed diamonds, would have led a spade in any case.
- (3) If South had led a spade, North would not have "misguessed" the spade position by playing low the first time the suit was led. He told the reviewer that he was concerned that his partner might have held the singleton ♠9.
- (4) Furthermore, after cashing their spades, North would have shifted to the ♣Q, allowing the defense to cash four club tricks.

They felt the result should be adjusted to 3NT doubled, down one.

Unfortunately, the East/West pair had a very bad game, and had left the playing area before the reviewer could speak with them, so the reviewer could only interview the table director, and the N/S pair. Since the ruling was irrelevant to E/W, the panel chose only to consider an adjustment for N/S.

To get a better sense of what might have happened had N/S gotten the correct information, ten partnerships, with strengths ranging from 2000 masterpoints to national champion, were given the North and South hands to bid and defend.

No North player expressed any interest in doubling the final contract. When the possibility was raised, all ten refused to consider it.

Interestingly, all ten South players, when given proper information, chose to lead a heart. A heart lead gives declarer her ninth trick immediately and a spade lead to the 9, as happened at the table, would result in a tenth.

If a diamond lead was imposed on the defense, there was a wide variety in the discards on the run of the diamonds. However, of the seven North players who did not discard two spades, all seven inserted the ten when a low spade was led from dummy. Several of the players, when asked, felt that playing a low spade would be a serious error.

Finally, when thrown in with a spade, only two of the eight North players who switched to a club chose either the queen or the ten. The others were concerned with removing a guess in the suit from declarer.

**The Decision:** The panel determined that the N/S version of what would have happened had they been given more accurate information did not meet that standard of "likely", as specified in Law 12C.1.e. It is easy to come up with such a defense after the

hand, but, given that no pair in the reviewer's poll came up with any of the plays that North/South contended they would have made, the panel was unconvinced that the players in question would have found those plays at the table.

The issue of whether the appeal had merit was considered. While it was eventually decided that the N/S argument was specious, the issues raised were sufficiently complex that it was not completely unreasonable to ask that they be considered more carefully by a panel. Thus, the appeal was found to have sufficient merit.

**The Panel:** David Metcalf (reviewer), Gary Zeiger, Jenni Carmichael

**Commentary:**

**Wildavsky** – Thorough work by the panel. I prefer their reasoning to the TD's, although both led to the same ruling.

**Martel** – Good.

**Marques** – Good decision and good polling to back it up. Just as an aside, the standard of “serious error” should be analyzed and decide by the TD. The players' opinion might not comply with the technical standards required for an action to be considered a serious error. But asking them to qualify the play yields useful information to decide.

**Kooijman** – I am collecting serious errors (apart from my own bridge) and I agree not playing the ♠10 by North is one. Not important for this case, no merit and an almost poetic escape from the committee finding one.

**Goldsmith** – I think the panel did a very good job collecting information. They convinced me to rule as they did.

**Woolsey** – Of course the ruling is correct for all the obvious reasons. While maybe the situation is complex enough so as to not award an appeal without merit, I would have awarded one so the N/S pair gets the message that they can't appeal this sort of situation as a free shot. If we don't do this, they will continue to make such appeals.