

Subject of Appeal:	Unauthorized Information	Case:	R1
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Event	Bruce LM Pairs	Event DIC	Susan Doe
Date	07/18/2014	Session	Second Qualifying

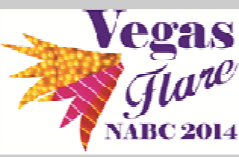
Auction

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♦	Pass	2♠ ¹	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♥ ²	Pass	4♠ ²	Pass
6♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Limit raise in diamonds
2: Conflicting explanations

Hand Record

Board	23	N	3960 MPS		
Dealer	S	♠	K654		
		♥	9872		
Vul	Both	♦	J4		
		♣	854		
W	2420 MPS			E	2330 MPS
♠	Q102			♠	92
♥	AK3			♥	Q
♦	KQ83			♦	A107652
♣	A62	♣	KJ73		
		S	1950 MPS		
		♠	AJ87		
		♥	J10654		
		♦	9		
		♣	Q109		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
6♦ by W	Down 1	N/S +100	♠ 6

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was called after the opening lead and at the end of play. South asked at the time of the alert to have the 2♠ bid explained. After "Artificial, showing limit raise or better in diamonds" South asked if 2♠ showed shortness and was told East had no four-card major.

Before North made the opening lead, he asked about the 4♦ bid and was told "I don't know." E/W claim they explained 4♥ as RKC and 4♠ was the response. N/S claimed they were explained as "I don't know."

E/W felt the spade lead was indicated by the two questions about the 2♠ bid. South said if she wanted a spade lead she could have doubled 4♠. North explained he had led a spade because he felt the explanations of 4♥ and 4♠ were cue bids and he did not want to lead into strength but through it.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

A poll was conducted using the explanations E/W felt they gave. Five players with about the same number of MPs as N/S were consulted. None of those players led a spade. One player consulted mentioned that because partner did not double 2♠ or 4♠, he was not going to lead a spade.

Director Ruling

Per Law 16, "when a player makes available to his partner extraneous information that may suggest a call or play, as for example by a remark (or) a question... the partner may not choose from among logical alternatives one that could demonstrably have been suggested over another by the extraneous information." The player poll showed that a spade lead was not considered a logical alternative by North's peers based solely on the auction and the North hand. The

questions asked about 2♠ drew attention to the bid, and suggested values or interest in the suit. Without the spade lead, West would take 12 tricks, so, per Law 12C, the result was changed to 6♦ by West, making 6, E/W +1370.

Director's Ruling	6♦ by W, Made 6, E/W +1370
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The Appeal

N/S appealed the ruling and all four players attended. North said he asked if 4♦ was Minorwood and West said she didn't know. East said, "That is RKC" so North assumed the 4♥ and 4♠ were cue bids and he wanted to lead through strength. South said she asked her follow up question about 2♠ to see if it showed shortness somewhere.

West said she first answered North's Minorwood question with "No" and then said she didn't know what it meant. East post alerted and, pointing to West's 4♥ bid, said "that is RKC and 4♠ is one or four." N/S did not hear West's "No" and North said he understood East to be correcting his partner's explanation to mean that 4♦ was Minorwood.

Panel Findings

Per the Alert regulations, South's properly phrased first question about an alerted 2♠ did not transmit UI, so five more players with a wider range of MP holdings were asked about the two questions combined. None thought they transmitted UI suggesting a spade lead. Since there was no UI, there was no violation of Law 16 and thus no infraction. The table result was restored.

Panel Decision	6♦ by W, Down 1, N/S +100
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Charles MacCracken
Member	Eric Bell
Member	Matt Koltnow