

Subject of Appeal:	Misinformation	Case:	N1
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Event	von Zedtwitz LM Pairs	Event DIC	Chris Patrias
Date	08/02/2013	Session	First Qualifying

Auction

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

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: 11 – 14 HCP
2: ♥ Transfer, No Alert

Hand Record

Board	12	N	Bar Tarnovski		
Dealer	W	♠ AQ863			
		♥ AQ			
		♦ K10			
		♣ K1053			
Vul	N/S				
W	Matt Leung			E	Robert Shore
♠	K1094			♠	7
♥	74			♥	J10965
♦	A542			♦	QJ87
♣	A98			♣	Q76
		S	Melanie Tucker		
		♠	J52		
		♥	K832		
		♦	963		
		♣	J42		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
2♠ by N	Down 2	E/W +200	♥ J

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was summoned by North at the conclusion of play. West had not Alerted East's 2♦. Per their convention card, the pair played "systems on" over balancing No Trumps and over a 2♣ intervening bid. North declared, therefore, placing long diamonds and the ♦A in the East hand. North won the ♥J lead with the ace, cashed the ♥Q and played the ♠Q from hand, West ducking. North then exited with the ♦K, won by West. At trick five, the play continued with a low diamond to East's jack. East switched to the ♥10, covered by the king and ruffed by West, North pitching a club. West returned another diamond, which declarer ruffed. Declarer cashed the ♠A and exited with a spade to West's king, East pitching his last diamond and a heart. West cashed the last diamond on which North pitched a club. In the three-card ending, West exited with a club, and North misguessed the position.

Director Ruling

North failed to play on clubs to set them up and lost control of the hand. The decision to take this line of play was not attributable to the failure to alert. The director ruled that the misinformation did not cause the damage and let the table result stand.

Director's Ruling	2♠ by N, Down 2, E/W +200
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The Appeal

North/South appealed the ruling, and North, East and West appeared at the hearing. North stated that with knowledge of the transfer bid, he would not have played the ♦K early in the play. North further stated West must have known that East held long hearts and that he should have Alerted or Announced the transfer. North had placed long diamonds in East's hand and misguessed as a result.

The Screening Director determined that East/West were a new partnership with only two hours of discussion before playing and that they had not discussed if transfers were on in this specific auction. They confirmed they were playing systems on over a balancing 1NT and that they were playing systems on over an intervening 2♣ bid. E/W felt that the lack of an Alert (if one was due) was not the cause of declarer going down two. They maintained that declarer had enough information in the end position to guess clubs correctly.

Committee Findings

The Appeals Committee found that East-West had not discussed whether transfers would apply in this auction, although they would apply absent the 2♣ interference. The committee determined that this was a new partnership which had had limited discussion and that they had no agreement about whether transfers applied to the sequence. Because the failure to have an agreement is not Alertable, the committee found that West's non-Alert of 2♦ was not an infraction. The committee also found that declarer's play of the hand was sufficiently weak to warrant a finding that even had there been misinformation, the chain of causality from it was broken and that any putative misinformation was not the cause of the bad result (Law 12C1b). Therefore, the table result was allowed to stand.

Committee Decision	2♣ by N, Down 2, E/W +200
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Committee Members

Chair	Richard Popper
Member	Ed Lazarus
Member	Craig Allen
Member	Bruce Reeve
Member	Blair Seidler