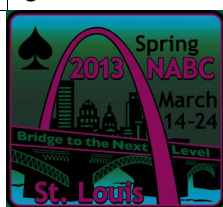


APPEAL	Regional One
Subject	Unauthorized Information
DIC	Scott Humphrey
Event	First Sunday AX Pairs
Session	First Session
Date	March 16, 2013

BD#	8
VUL	None
DLR	W

6605 masterpoints	
♠	974
♥	A974
♦	KQ963
♣	9

16,640 masterpoints	
♠	K8
♥	QJ862
♦	10874
♣	107



4218 masterpoints	
♠	J6
♥	K1053
♦	AJ5
♣	J853

2384 masterpoints	
♠	AQ10532
♥	--
♦	2
♣	AKQ642

West	North	East	South
P	P	P	1♠
P	2♠ ⁽¹⁾	P	2♠ ⁽²⁾
P	3♠	P	4NT ⁽³⁾
P	5♠ ⁽⁴⁾	P	6♠
P	P	P	

Final Contract	6♠ by South
Opening Lead	♥Q
Table Result	Making 6, N/S +980
Director Ruling	2♠ by North, Making 6, N/S +230
Committee Ruling	2♠ by North, Making 6, N/S +230

- | | |
|-----|--|
| (1) | Not Alerted – Limit Raise (Reverse Drury) |
| (2) | Not Alerted – Minimum Hand, agreed break in tempo |
| (3) | 1430 RKC Blackwood |
| (4) | One or Four Keycards |

The Facts: The TD was called at the end of the auction. West explained that 2♣ was not alerted, and that South broke tempo before bidding 2♠S. N/S agreed with these facts, and they also explained that 2♠ systemically shows a hand which does not accept a limit raise.

The Ruling: North had UI from the BIT. More importantly, South's failure to Alert 2♣ was UI to North. Per Law 16B1, North was not allowed to choose from among logical alternatives one which could demonstrably have been suggested over another by the extraneous information.

The TD determined through a player poll that the failure to Alert 2♣ suggested that partner might not have recognized it as a limit raise and that bidding 3♠ might be more successful than passing.

The TD also found through a player poll that Pass was a logical alternative to bidding 3♠ for North. Therefore, per Law 12C1e, North's 3♠ bid was changed to a Pass, and the contract and result were changed to 2♠ by South, making 6, NS +230

The Appeal: N/S appealed the ruling and North, East and West appeared. During the Review, East and West brought no new evidence. North asserted that he had a particularly good limit raise and was always planning to bid 3♠ if partner bid 2♠.

The Decision: The reviewer conducted his own player poll. All seven consultants (six peers, expert Janice Seamon-Molson) passed 2♠.

Following the standard procedure for UI cases, the Panel agreed that UI was available to North from South's failure to Alert 2♣. The information contained in the failure to Alert was that South did not recognize that 2♣ was a spade raise. As such, the Panel felt that bidding 3♠ might be more successful than passing 2♠. The player poll showed that in an untainted auction, peers of this player who employ this convention would Pass. Therefore, the Panel adjusted the score to 2♠ by South making 6, NS +230, per Laws 16B1 and 12C1c.

As N/S are experienced players, and since N/S were informed during the pre-hearing screening of the results of the Reviewer's player poll, the Panel felt unanimously that N/S should be awarded an Appeal without Merit Warning.

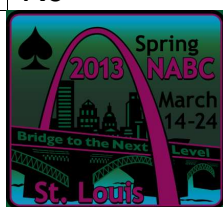
The Panel: Matt Koltnow (Reviewer), Matt Smith, Sol Weinstein

APPEAL	Regional Two
Subject	Unauthorized Information
DIC	Eric Bell
Event	First Sunday AX Swiss
Session	First Session
Date	March 17 2013

BD#	21
VUL	N/S
DLR	N

3550 masterpoints	
♠	10832
♥	J876
♦	973
♣	K6

120 masterpoints	
♠	AK4
♥	10
♦	AKJ6542
♣	Q7



600 masterpoints	
♠	Q65
♥	AK532
♦	Q
♣	J1093

6700 masterpoints	
♠	J97
♥	Q94
♦	108
♣	A8542

West	North	East	South
	P	1♥	P
3♦⁽¹⁾	P	4♥	P
6♦	P	P	P

Final Contract	6♦ by West
Opening Lead	♠2
Table Result	Making 6, E/W +920
Director Ruling	5♥ by East, Down 2, N/S +100
Committee Ruling	6♥ by East, Down 3, N/S +150

(1) Alerted and explained as a Bergen raise

The Facts: The director was called after the auction, and again at the end of the hand. The actual agreement about the 3♦ bid was Bergen as indicated on both convention cards.

The Ruling: Initially, the table director ruled without consultation that the score stood, believing the 6♦ bid was not a violation of Law 16. N/S appealed that ruling. Upon reviewing the case, the event DIC decided to poll players before having N/S proceed with their appeal. That poll of four expert players showed all of them making a slam move in support of hearts with the West hand, but signing off in 5♥ after normal follow-ups by East. None considered bidding 6♦ over 4♥. Since logical alternatives existed to the 6♦ bid that were not suggested by the unauthorized information, and since those alternatives might lead to a contract of 5♥, the ruling was changed to 5♥ by East down two, N/S -100 (Laws 16 and 12).

The Appeal: E/W appealed the Director's ruling. The reviewer met with all four players together at the end of the afternoon session. West told the reviewer that he forgot they were

playing Bergen raises and he intended his bid to be a strong jump shift, which to him showed a hand of opening bid strength or better. By agreement 3♦ actually showed 11-12 HCP and four card support.

The reviewer spent some time explaining the reason for the ruling and the relevant laws to E/W. Even though this occurred in a flight AX event, E/W (and particularly West with 120 masterpoints) were relatively inexperienced. West did not understand why 6♦ was not a perfectly normal bid. When he was told that a preliminary poll by the reviewer had three of four players bidding 4♠ as a way to investigate a heart slam (the other passed 4♥ stating that it should show solid hearts and no outside controls), he said that bid would never occur to him and that players of his level of experience would never make such a bid.

He accepted that the ruling might be correct for players of the experience of those polled, but asked that polling be done of players with more similar experience to his partnership. Since Law 16 refers to a logical alternative being relative to “the class of players in question and using the methods of the partnership”, the reviewer agreed to do so.

N/S said they thought the 6♦ bid was taking advantage of the unauthorized information, and they wondered if East should be allowed to pass 6♦. The reviewer pointed out to them that the auction itself was authorized to East, and a 6♦ bid after a Bergen raise and a sign-off in 4♥ certainly would be a wake-up call to East that the auction had gone off the rails. In any case, the laws don't restrict East's actions since he was not in possession of any unauthorized information.

The Decision: The panel decided that there was unauthorized information from the alert and explanation of 3♦, and that bidding 6♦ was suggested by that information. The panel thought that the appellants' point about the wrong peer group being polled was a valid one. The reviewer therefore gave the hands to two pairs of approximately the same experience level as the appellants to bid.

The polls were conducted in a way that no players were aware that there was a potential misunderstanding of the meaning of the 3♦ bid. Both Wests assumed their partner knew their 3♦ bid was a strong jump shift, and both Easts assumed that partner had made a Bergen raise. Both Easts bid 4♥ over 3♦D. Both Wests then bid 4NT, but one meant it as Blackwood and the other as natural. In the Blackwood pair, East bid 5♥ and West then bid 6♥. In the natural 4NT pair, East bid 5♦ (intending it as a one ace response to Blackwood) and West then bid 6♦. East corrected 6♦ to 6♥.

While the panel had no confidence that a more extensive poll of peers would result in 6♥ being reached all the time, it did feel that the results of this limited poll indicated that a contract of 6♥ met the standard of Law 12C1(e): “The score assigned in place of the actual score for a non-offending side is the most favorable result that was likely had the irregularity not occurred . . . [and] for the offending side . . . the most unfavorable result that was at all probable . . .” he panel assigned the score of 6♥ by East down three, N/S +150 to both sides.

The panel did not consider an Appeal without Merit Warning since the original table ruling had been reversed.

Players polled by the panel: Tom Breed, Michael Roche, Michael Rosenberg, one other expert, and two peer partnerships

The Panel: Matt Smith (reviewer), Bill Michael, Patty Holmes, Geoff Greene, Kevin Perkins