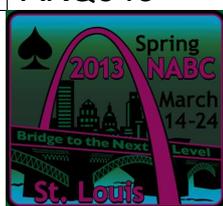


APPEAL	Regional Three
Subject	Misinformation
DIC	Nancy Watkins
Event	Wednesday AB Open Pairs
Session	First Session
Date	March 20, 2013

BD#	10
VUL	Both
DLR	E

5200 masterpoints	
♠	Q10
♥	Q
♦	9864
♣	AKQ543

1370 masterpoints	
♠	87432
♥	A42
♦	KQJ5
♣	2



375 masterpoints	
♠	A5
♥	987653
♦	A1072
♣	9

1370 masterpoints	
♠	KJ96
♥	KJ10
♦	3
♣	J10876

West	North	East	South
		P	1♠ ⁽¹⁾
P	2♣ ⁽²⁾	P	2♠ ⁽³⁾
P	3NT	P	P
P			

Final Contract	3NT by North
Opening Lead	♥9
Table Result	Down 1, E/W +100
Director Ruling	3NT by North, Down 1, E/W +100
Committee Ruling	4♣ by South, Down 4, E/W +400

- | | |
|-----|---|
| (1) | N/S pre-alerted that they play Precision with Canapé |
| (2) | Alerted and explained as a spade raise |
| (3) | Explained as opener's longest suit |

The Facts: The director was called by E/W, first upon seeing dummy, and then again at the end of the hand. 3NT went down one on the lead of the ♥9. West won the ace and played the ♦K, ♦Q and ♦J. East overtook the jack, cashed the ♦10, and switched to a heart. Declarer took the rest of the tricks.

E/W believed they had been misinformed about both of the opponents' hands. East told the director he would have cashed the ♠A after running diamonds if he had been correctly informed about North's hand, but that he did not since he thought it could not go away, and hoped that his side might come to more than one spade trick.

South explained that he thought his partner was a passed hand and that 2♣ was therefore Drury. The real agreement about 2♣ was natural and game forcing. South's 2♠ bid was intended as a minimum response to Drury, but North's explanation was correct according to their agreements.

The Ruling: The Director ruled that any damage to E/W was not a result of misinformation and that the table result stood. East was in possession of enough information from the previous play to realize that partner could not have any more useful cards. Accordingly, no adjustment was made.

The Appeal: East/West appealed the ruling and North, South and East attended the hearing. The reviewer met with East separately from North and South since the interviews were conducted during the evening session. East repeated what he had said to the table director.

North and South repeated the explanation of what caused the misunderstanding and explained their methods. The 2♠ bid was correctly explained by North. In their methods 2♠ shows 10-12 HCP and six spades. With 12-15 HCP and six plus spades they open 3♠.

The reviewer informed North that he was required by law to correct his partner's mistaken explanation of his 2♣ bid before the opening lead (Law 20F5b). The reviewer also explained to North that he had unauthorized information from his partner's explanation and he was obliged to avoid using it to any advantage (Law 73C). When asked about his choice of 3NT rather than pursuing spades as a final contract, he said he thought this might be a hand where nine tricks would be easier than ten.

The Decision: In deciding cases, panels are expected to consider legal issues possibly overlooked by the director and not mentioned by the appellants. In this case, the panel believed that E/W might have been damaged more by unauthorized information than by misinformation.

The reviewer polled eight players ranging from top experts down to players with 2000 masterpoints regarding North's action over 2♠. Six bid 4♠; one wanted to make a game try of some kind in spades; one considered 3♣, 3♠, and 4♠ as possible bids and could see circumstances where he might want to play in 3NT.

Law 16B1 says that after receiving unauthorized information from partner a player "may not choose from among logical alternatives one that could demonstrably have been suggested over another by the extraneous information." Unauthorized information existed that clearly suggested not bidding 4♠ and the poll indicated that 4♠ was not only a logical alternative, but that it was a majority choice among consulted players. The panel therefore assigned a contract of 4♠ by South. Consulted experts thought that South would take six tricks in that contract, so the table result was replaced for both sides with 4♠ by South, down 4, E/W +400 (Law 12C1e). Since the issue of misinformation became moot with this decision it was not considered.

The appeal was found to have sufficient merit.

Players polled: Ralph Katz, Eric Kokish, Nick Nickell, and five non-experts

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