

APPEAL	Non-NABC+ Nine
Subject	Misinformation (MI)
DIC	John Ashton
Event	Wed-Thu KO Bracket -Two
Session	First
Date	November 28, 2007

BD#	6
VUL	E/W
DLR	East

8,906 Masterpoints	
♠	A 7 3
♥	A J 8 5
♦	K 2
♣	T 9 8 6

3,552 Masterpoints		Fall 2007 San Francisco, CA	11,471 Masterpoints	
♠	T		♠	6 5 4
♥	K Q 9 4 3 2		♥	7 6
♦	T 9 4		♦	A Q J
♣	7 4 3		♣	A K Q J 2

7,505 Masterpoints	
♠	K Q J 9 8 2
♥	T
♦	8 7 6 5 3
♣	5

West	North	East	South
		1♣	2♠
Pass	2NT ¹	Pass	3♣ ²
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Final Contract	4 Spades by S
Opening Lead	♥K
Table Result	Made 4, +420
Director Ruling	4♠ by South making 4, N/S +420
Panel Ruling	4♠ by South down 1, N/S - 50

(1)	Asking for shortness, not Alerted.
(2)	Not Alerted

The Facts: Before the opening lead South said there has been a failure to Alert and North said there had been two such failures. The final contract was 4♠ making on the ♥K lead.

The director was called before the opening lead and was told by East away from the table that he would have bid 3♣ had he been Alerted. He passed because he thought 2NT was natural.

The Ruling: The director thought East's club holding was a strong indication that 2NT was not natural, and he should have done more to protect himself if it made a difference in his second call. Therefore, the damage was not as a direct result of the failure to Alert. The table result of 4♠ by South making four N/S plus 420 was allowed to stand.

The Appeal: East said he originally thought his partner had to lead a trump to set the hand, but after a couple of boards he realized that if she led a club he would have time to shift to a trump at trick two and still beat the hand. After the heart lead declarer ruffed a heart, led a diamond to the king, won the trump return and led a diamond to the jack. She won the second trump lead, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a heart, drew trump and claimed four. West said she would have led a club had her partner bid three clubs. South said that three times East said the hand could not be beaten without an initial trump lead. It wasn't until much later that he realized he could beat the contract with a club lead.

The Decision: The panel polled three experts. Two opened 1♣ (because it was a KO match and there was nothing in either major). Without the Alert they passed. After being told 2NT was asking for shortness one said he would bid 3♣ as a free shot and another bid 3♣. The third thought it unlikely 2NT was natural, especially given his club holding. The panel considered the fact that it took a considerable time for East to realize that a club could beat the hand. It was agreed that there is a lot of difference between going over a hand in your mind and actually looking at the cards while defending. The panel felt East's claim he would shift to a trump after winning the first club fell in the realm of "likely" as defined in Law 12 C 2, so the delay in comprehending the outcome after a club lead was not held against him.

The panel felt that there was damage as a result of the failure to Alert and, based on expert consultation, that there were several likely results had 2NT been alerted. Law 40 C requires an adjusted score if an opponent has been damaged by a failure to fully explaining a call. Law 12 C 2 requires the director to give the non-offending side the most favorable result that was likely had the irregularity not occurred. The result was adjusted to 4♠ by South down one N/S minus 50.

The Panel: Charles MacCracken (Reviewer), Harry Falk and Jean Molnar

Players Consulted: Lowell Andrews, Dan Gerstman and Jim Krekorian.

Commentary:

Polisner I'm not sure what the director thought that East should have done to "protect himself." If he asks what 2NT was, it could be giving West UI which could work against him if West led a club later. All in all, the panel got it right.

Rigal The point about East bidding 3♣ is that now he won't know that declarer has a singleton club. Yes, the trump shift looks right, but with the hearts looming in dummy it looks far from automatic to shift to a trump. I guess I'd give both sides 4♠ down one but I feel that is being generous to E/W. A 12C3 ruling would have been nicer if it were available.

Smith I was a bit skeptical before reading the decision, but the panel seems to have followed all the correct steps in deciding that E/W were damaged by the failure to Alert 2NT.

Wildavsky Good work by the panel.

Wolf Properly ruled by the panel, not the director. Convention disruption again, not to any very large extent, but on this hand it was material.