



**2015**

**EBU Appeals**

# ENGLISH BRIDGE UNION

2015

## APPEALS

All the appeals from the EBU's major events have been included here. It is hoped that they will provide interest and an insight into the way that people in England are ruling the game. The booklet is produced by the Laws & Ethics Committee but the comments shown here (including those from members of the L&EC) are the personal opinions of the writer.

Included at the end of the document are two reports of hands illustrating the EBU's new approach to "fielded misbids", adopted in August 2015.

Our thanks to the commentators, who have donated their time and their expertise.

If you have any comments, or would like to be involved in the production of future booklets, please contact the L&EC Secretary:

Secretary, Laws and Ethics Committee  
English Bridge Union  
Broadfields  
Bicester Road  
AYLESBURY  
Bucks HP19 8AZ  
England UK

Tel: 01296 317205

From outside UK (replace 0 with +44)

Email: [lecsec@ebu.co.uk](mailto:lecsec@ebu.co.uk)

EBU web site: <http://www.ebu.co.uk>

L&EC page: <http://www.ebu.co.uk/lawsandethics/>

## Commentators

**Jeffrey Allerton** is a tournament player from Surrey, England. He has won many of the main English and British events. He has represented England on several occasions, including in the 2018 European Championships. He is also a past European and World junior champion. He qualified as a club and county director two decades ago, but no longer directs events. However, he has a keen interest in the application of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge and is an active member of the EBU panel of referees.

**Heather Dhondy** learned bridge from her parents. Her first trophy was the Portland Bowl representing York University and she has an impressive record since then having won five European Championships including the winning women's team at the 2016 European Championships, three world championships, and a silver medal in the Venice Cup. She is a member of the EBU Board and has served as the Chairman of the EBU Selection Committee, and is the current Chairman of the Laws and Ethics Committee and Tournament Directors Development Group.

**Richard Fleet** used to compete in a lot of bridge events and represented both England and Great Britain on several occasions. However, he is now retired from tournament bridge and has not played at all for over four years. He has captained England teams on many occasions, most recently in the 2016 Camrose.

Over the years he has been heavily involved in bridge administration, having served for lengthy periods on the London Committee, including ten years as Chairman, and the EBU Laws & Ethics and Selection Committees. After a hiatus from administration lasting some nine years, he was elected back onto the L & E in 2015 but has decided not to seek re-election in 2018.

He has researched the history of English tournament bridge and the first instalment of this work, covering the period from 1925 to 1945, was published on the EBU website towards the end of 2016. He is at present writing his autobiography and any further work on bridge will have to await the completion of this.

**Paul Lamford** is the author of a couple of books on bridge, *50 Bridge Puzzles* and *Starting Out in Bridge*, and is a frequent contributor to Bridge magazine and *Metrobridge*. He is a County Director, regular poster on bridge forums, and has been a member of many Appeals Committees.

**Tim Rees** has been playing bridge since school, and has won most of the English and Welsh national titles at some stage. He has represented Wales at Europeans, Olympiads and Commonwealth Games since devolution from Great Britain in 2000, with his greatest successes being silver at the 2002 Commonwealth Games, and gold at the 2014 Games in Glasgow. Tim is a previous Chairman of the Laws and Ethics Committee for England. He works at the Transport Research Laboratory, analysing (and hopefully solving) motorway congestion.

**Alan Wilson** is an economic consultant by profession. He has played bridge for 40 years, since learning bridge at school from a couple of friends and a Reese book for beginners. He plays a mixture of club bridge and some of the more serious county and national competitions, without quite reaching the top level – best results one Gold Cup semi-final and two Crockfords finals. For the past few years he has captained the Oxfordshire County team.

Although never formally qualified as a club TD, he runs a few informal events. He has taken an interest in TD rulings for a number of years, and is now a member of the EBU Laws & Ethics Committee.

## APPEAL No : 15.002

Tournament Director: Phil Godfrey

Appeals Committee: Paul Hackett (C), Paul Lamford, Alan Mould

<p>♠ K6 ♥ AKQJ7 ♦ 104 ♣ AQJ7</p> <p>♠ QJ1042      ♠ 95 ♥ 9532          ♥ 864 ♦ AJ95          ♦ K62 ♣ -              ♣ 98653</p> <p>♠ A873 ♥ 10 ♦ Q873 ♣ K1042</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2♠ (1)</td><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table> <p>1) Lucas = 5 spades + 4 other</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	2♠ (1)	4♥	All Pass	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>						
2♠ (1)	4♥	All Pass							

### Basic systems:

North-South system – not recorded

East-West system – Acol + Lucas

Form of Scoring: IMPs to VPs

Result at table: 4♥ - 1 by N (-100). Lead ♠9

Director first called: At trick 3.

### Director's statement of facts:

North claimed at trick 3. Spade lead won by A in dummy, ♥10 cashed. I asked North to repeat his statement and was told – drawing trumps, giving up two diamonds at the end. North had enquired to the shape of West and was told 5+ spades, may be 6, 4+ of any other suit.

After North claimed, EW seemed unsure and after questioning North explained he would return to hand with ♠K.

### Director's ruling:

No play proposed to return to hand, club would be trumped; ♦A, ♦K, ♣ trumped would be one down (Law 70)

### Details of ruling:

### Note by editor:

Appeal lodged by: North/South

Basis of appeal: irrational not to return with a spade.

### Director's comments:

Comments by North-South: None

## APPEAL No : 15.002

Comments by East-West: None

### Appeals Committee decision:

Director's ruling stands.  
Deposit returned

### Appeals Committee's comments:

It is unfortunate but we uphold the TD's decision.  
While no statement was made there is a possibility that it is not illogical to return a club.

**L&E Comment:** NS have no case under the laws of the game. It isn't 'unfortunate' – it would be wrong to allow the claim. It allows a declarer who is uncertain about how to get back to hand just to claim and see who objects. We are surprised that the deposit was not retained.

15.002

JA: At the point North claimed, he had not considered in which suit to cross to hand – otherwise he would have stated so in his claim. (He also does not seem to have considered the possibility of a 6-1 trump break – hardly impossible on the auction.) In fact, a club looks better to me single dummy. The TD's ruling is clearly correct and I cannot see any merit in the appeal. Hence I would have retained the deposit.

HD: I think I am in favour with the ruling given. The only doubt in my mind is that the description of the opening bid in the box at the top says 5 spades and 4 other, however declarer was told that it could be six. Therefore if he had returned to hand with a club and then complained about the description (normally this is played as showing precisely five) I would have had some sympathy. However the fact he just claimed without stating any return, means that the director's ruling must stand.

RJF: No comment

PL: I agree that we made the correct decision, but North had been told that 2♠ showed EXACTLY five spades and another four or five card minor, and it was a failure to state a line that he might have assumed that cost him. We thought keeping the deposit too harsh.

TR: No Comment

AW: A good decision, and I prefer the L&E's comment to the AC's. If North felt it was clear to return to hand with a spade, he could surely have mentioned that that was what he planned to do.

# APPEAL No : 15.005

Tournament Director: Martin Lee

Appeals Committee: Paul Lamford, Mark Tilley, Tommy Brass

<p>♠ K853 ♥ AKQ9 ♦ 97 ♣ 976</p> <p>♠ 107 ♥ J532 ♦ QJ85 ♣ K84</p> <p>♠ 4 ♥ 108764 ♦ 102 ♣ AQJ32</p>	<p>♠ AQJ962 ♥ - ♦ AK643 ♣ 105</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>3♠</td><td>4♥ (1)</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Dbl</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table> <p>1) Questions about 3♠ bid before bidding 4♥. See statement of facts.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	Pass	1NT	3♠	4♥ (1)	Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>															
Pass	1NT	3♠	4♥ (1)															
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass															
Pass	Dbl	All Pass																

## Basic systems:

North-South system – 12-14 NT, Benji Acol

East-West system – 15-17 NT, 5cm, short club. (1NT) 3x is not mentioned on the system card.

## Form of Scoring: MPs

**Result at table:** 4♠x +1 by E; +690

**Director first called:** During break between Session 1 and session 2.

## Director's statement of facts:

I was called by North after he had seen the hand records during the break after S1 had finished. He told me that his partner had asked about the 3♠ bid and was told it was weak when in fact it is clearly not the case. I subsequently spoke to all four players although I did not speak to EW in the presence of NS as they were elsewhere. I am satisfied that the following is agreed: South asked what 3♠ meant and initially West stated 'no agreement'. South asked a supplementary question, asking what was the difference between 2♠ and 3♠ in this situation. The accounts now differ. West states that she was being pushed and said that 'I don't know, *perhaps* 3♠ is weaker than 2♠ but longer spades'. NS both contend that the word 'perhaps' was not used and that they were told that the hand was weak. South contends that had he known that east was strong, he would not have bid 4♥. West did say to me that had she known it was strong herself, she would probably have bid 4♠ herself as well.

On EW system card they do have a 2-suited defence to 1NT: 2♦ showing a major and diamonds, however East did not want 2♦ to be passed out and thus did not bid it.

I consulted as regards the hand, including taking counsel from a TD consultant on the phone.

## Director's ruling:

Score stands.

## **APPEAL No : 15.005**

### **Details of ruling:**

It was my ruling that South had been told initially that there was no agreement but when pushed, West had said words which South interpreted as being told the hand was weak. West felt under a little bit of pressure from the added question.

I ruled that there was however sufficient information for South to realise that West did not know (and that there was no agreement) what the strength of her partner's hand was and as such there is no damage.

### **Note by editor:**

**Appeal lodged by:** North/South

**Basis of appeal:** There is misinformation

### **Director's comments:**

EW are an established partnership. I also took advice as regards whether the 4♥ bid was wild and gambling – it was not.

**Comments by North-South:** None

**Comments by East-West:** None

### **Appeals Committee decision:**

Director's ruling amended. Adjusted to 3♠ +2 by E.  
Deposit returned

### **Appeals Committee's comments:**

We felt there was misinformation. There was no clear evidence of EW agreement and Law 21D1(b) stated that the TD was to presume mistaken explanation. I think it is less likely that South would have bid 4♥ with the correct explanation 'no agreement'.

**L&E Comment:** Based on the write-up, we far prefer the TD's ruling to the AC's. West gave an explanation of "no agreement", then when questioned further, gave an opinion that turned out to not match her partner's hand. But we believe that the original explanation of "no agreement" should still stand, so (assuming that there really was no agreement) there was no MI.

Of course, if the AC decided there was an agreement that 3♠ was strong, then they were correct to rule as they did, but that's not what they've put on the form.

## APPEAL No : 15.005

15.005

JA: I prefer the TD's decision to the AC's. It seems that the correct explanation was "no agreement" and that is the explanation West gave. When the follow-up question was asked, it seems to me that West was trying to be helpful but was doing little more than speculating perhaps based on other situations. It should have been clear to South that they did not have an explicit agreement on whether 3♠ was weak.

Moreover, the strength of East's bid should have little bearing on South's decision over 3♠. South knows his partner's strength and the balanced nature of partner's hand. The fewer points East has, the more West will have.

The AC write-up is puzzling. It says "I think it is less likely that South would have bid 4♥ with the correct explanation 'no agreement'". If it is only "less likely" that South would bid (assuming that there was MI in the first place), why not give a weighted ruling, assuming that South will pass a certain percentage of the time and still bid 4♥ (leading to the table result) the rest of the time? I am also troubled by "I think". There were three members of the AC and the decision should be based on what all three of them think, not just one of them.

HD: I agree with the TD and the L&E. The first explanation of no agreement is what stands. It isn't fair to try to badger more information and then complain when West's best guess doesn't turn out to be correct.

RJF: No comment

PL: We did think there was a strong possibility that EW had an agreement as they had played together for some years. When pressed, West should not have changed her explanation to "probably weak". Those were the words she used herself and that was misinformation.

TR: If the 4♥ bid stands, there would still be potential UI on East, who has heard that his partner believes 3♠ is weak. East's 4♠ bid is suggested by the UI, so the TD and AC would need to consider whether pass of 4♥ is a logical alternative. Given that East selected 3♠ in the first place in preference to 4♠, it probably is.

AW: The TD's ruling seems fine to me. EW do not appear to have a clear agreement, and that is what NS seem to have been told. I'm also not sure of the relevance to South of East's strength – he already has a pretty clear idea of the balance of strength between the two sides from his partner's opening bid.



# APPEAL No : 15.006

**Tournament Director:** David Collier

**Appeals Committee:** Heather Dhondy (C), Ned Paul, Steve Abley

<p>♠ J106 ♥ A82 ♦ KJ9763 ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ K95                      ♠ Q84 ♥ K953                      ♥ QJ ♦ Q4                              ♦ A2 ♣ KJ85                      ♣ A107632</p> <p>♠ A732 ♥ 10764 ♦ 1085 ♣ 94</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td></td><td>1♦</td><td>2♣</td><td>2♦</td></tr><tr><td>3♣</td><td>3♦</td><td>Pass (H)</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♣</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		1♦	2♣	2♦	3♣	3♦	Pass (H)	Pass	4♣	All Pass		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>														
	1♦	2♣	2♦														
3♣	3♦	Pass (H)	Pass														
4♣	All Pass																

## Basic systems:

North-South system – short club, weak NT

East-West system – not recorded

## Form of Scoring: MPs

**Result at table:** 4♣= by E, -130

**Director first called:** At the end of the auction

## Director's statement of facts:

I was initially called by South who wanted to reserve his rights concerning East's hesitation and West's subsequent bid. The hesitation over 3♦ was agreed.

I was called back at the end of the hand: South felt that bidding was suggested by the UI and that some people in West's position would pass instead. West noted that 3♣ had been an underbid and he felt he must therefore bid again.

## Director's ruling:

Score adjusted to 3♦ - 2 by North.

## Details of ruling:

East's hesitation makes it more attractive for West to take action. Some players might well pass 3♦, which is likely to make 7 tricks, a better result for NS. (Law 16B1)

## Note by editor:

**Appeal lodged by:** East/West

## Basis of appeal:

## APPEAL No : 15.006

### Director's comments:

I polled players in order to determine whether there was a logical alternative to 4♣. Most disagreed with 3♣ but, given a 3♣ bid, several felt that the later 4♣ was not clear-cut.

**Comments by North-South:** None

**Comments by East-West:** As I understand the rule, I am entitled to bid if my bid is justified irrespective of any hesitation from partner (i.e. partner had not hesitated). Given partner's 2-level overcall vulnerable 2♣, I judged her to have a good hand (i.e. an opening bid) and therefore was prepared to play at the 4-level.

### Appeals Committee decision:

Director's ruling stands.  
Deposit returned

### Appeals Committee's comments:

We have a lot of sympathy with West, however when there is UI, any element of risk is removed and we felt pass was a logical alternative.

**L&E Committee comments:** None

15.006

JA: The E/W comment about the 4♣ bid is a perfectly valid reason for bidding 4♣ at the table, but it is not necessarily a valid reason to appeal. The TD's poll concluded that pass was a logical alternative and the TD's ruling was based on the assumption that bidding on could demonstrably have been suggested by the slowness of East's pass. In appealing, E/W need to explain why bidding on was not demonstrably suggested by the slowness of East's pass.

HD: No Comment

RJF: I would have been considered N-S 3♦ minus one. A likely defence is Ace and another club - declarer plays Ace and another heart and the defence can only come to five tricks.

PL: This is a deposit that should have been retained. Qx of diamonds is a particularly bad holding for bidding 4♣.

TR: No Comment

AW: A reasonable decision, but not the only possible one. Personally, I'm not convinced that the fact that West only bid 3♣ the first time round means that pass has to be a LA, as most of those polled seem to have concluded. West may well have felt all along that his hand justified 4♣, but still hoped to buy the hand at the 3-level.

# APPEAL No : 15.007

**Tournament Director:** Gary Conrad

**Appeals Committee:** Malcolm Pryor (C), Brian Senior, Celia Oram

<p>♠ 654 ♥ AJ ♦ AKJ1085 ♣ Q2</p> <p>♠ AKJ1097      ♠ Q32 ♥ 9                  ♥ K10832 ♦ 94                  ♦ 2 ♣ K1095          ♣ J876</p> <p>♠ 8 ♥ Q7654 ♦ Q763 ♣ A43</p>	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td></td><td>1NT (1)</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦ (2)</td></tr><tr><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♦ (3)</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass (4)...</td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♦</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table> <p>1) 15 to 17 2) Transfer to hearts 3) Retransfer to hearts 4) TD called</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		1NT (1)	Pass	2♦ (2)	2♠	Pass	Pass	3♦ (3)	Pass	Pass	Pass (4)...				3♠	Pass	Pass	4♦	All Pass	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																						
	1NT (1)	Pass	2♦ (2)																						
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♦ (3)																						
Pass	Pass	Pass (4)...																							
		3♠	Pass																						
Pass	4♦	All Pass																							

## Basic systems:

North-South system – not recorded

East-West system – not recorded

**Form of Scoring:** MPs to VPs

**Result at table:** 4♦ + 1 by S, +150

**Director first called:** At point 4. After East's 3<sup>rd</sup> (final) pass

## Director's statement of facts:

I was called to the table after the final pass by East. North has announced after 4) that South's bid of 3♦ was a retransfer to hearts, South then said that he thought his 3♦ bid was natural. I offered East the opportunity to reopen the auction and East bid 3♠. This was passed round to North who bid 4♦. This was passed out for 11 tricks. East/West called me back and claimed that the North bid should not be allowed as it was based in unauthorised information. After consultation I was critical of the 4♦ bid (I thought he should have bid 4♥) but did not consider pass to be a logical alternative. If 4♥ was doubled as claimed North would pull to 5♦ which is a make.

## Director's ruling:

Score stands. (Law 16B1B)

## Details of ruling:

## Note by editor:

**Appeal lodged by:** East/West

## Basis of appeal:

## Director's comments:

## APPEAL No : 15.007

**Comments by North-South:** None

**Comments by East-West:** None

### Appeals Committee decision:

Director's ruling amended.

Deposit returned

### Appeals Committee's comments:

At the point North bid 4♦ he had already passed what he described as a retransfer (indicating a long diamond suit) plus had heard his partner explain that 3♦ was natural and not a retransfer. We felt North had already shown his hand and was in receipt of unauthorised information. We felt that pass was a clear logical alternative without the UI and therefore adjusted the score back to 3♠ making nine tricks (on nearly all lines of play).

**L&E Comment:** None

15.007

JA: It is uncommon (but perfectly correct) for a TD to allow the final pass of the auction to be changed when an explanation is corrected (or a late alert is made) before the opening lead is made. However, in such cases there will often be UI to the (originally) declaring side in the subsequent auction. It would be good practice for the TD to warn the players about UI at the point where he allows the final pass to be changed; it is not clear whether he did so here.

I agree with the AC's decision and reasoning.

HD: I agree with the appeals committee. South should not have said that he thought 3♦ was natural and that gave North UI. Pass is a logical alternative.

RJF: No comment

PL: Nothing to add to AC

TR: It's not clear that East was allowed to change his pass in the first place. TDs tend to allow the final bid back in MI cases, but Law 21B1a only allows a change when "the decision to make the call could well have been influenced by misinformation". Here, East has passed the 3♦ when he thought the opposition had found a fit, and then bid 3♠ when told that there was a potential misfit (South's comment about 3♦ being natural complicates things though). Also, if the North/South agreement is that 3♦ is natural, there has been no MI (but there is still UI on North/South).

AW: A good decision by the AC, I feel. North's unexpected pass of what was supposedly a retransfer has already given a good idea of his hand, meaning that pass must be a LA, while bidding on is suggested by the UI.

# APPEAL No : 15.010

**Tournament Director:** Jim Proctor

**Appeals Committee:** Alan Mould (C), G Kenyan, J Gibson

<p>♠ A72 ♥ AKQ7 ♦ A10972 ♣ Q</p> <p>♠ J84                      ♠ KQ65 ♥ J86                      ♥ 9 ♦ 8                            ♦ J643 ♣ AKJ1052                ♣ 9873</p> <p>♠ 1093 ♥ 105432 ♦ KQ5 ♣ 64</p>	<p>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td></td><td>2♦ (A1)</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥ (A)</td></tr><tr><td>3♣</td><td>3♦ (A2)</td><td>Pass (3)</td><td>3♥ (4)</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table> <p>1) Multi 2) Alerted 3) Asked about 3♦, told unbalanced, distributional, 18+ D and S 4) Pick a place to play</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		2♦ (A1)	Pass	2♥ (A)	3♣	3♦ (A2)	Pass (3)	3♥ (4)	Pass	4♥	All Pass	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>														
	2♦ (A1)	Pass	2♥ (A)														
3♣	3♦ (A2)	Pass (3)	3♥ (4)														
Pass	4♥	All Pass															

## Basic systems:

North-South system – not recorded

East-West system – not recorded

**Form of Scoring:** IMPs to VPs

**Result at table:** 4♥ + 1 by South, +450

**Director first called:** when dummy went down

## Director's statement of facts:

I was called by East when dummy went down. I was recalled at the end of the hand and ascertained the facts.

South explained 3♦ as shown above. The system cards said 3-suiter but as one of the suits could be 3-cards long he thought it better to describe the bid as he did (D + S could be 4-4)

## Director's ruling:

4♣ = by West , -130.

## Details of ruling:

I ruled misinformation. Given the correct explanation, East would bid 4♣ and all would pass (Law 40B4).

## Note by editor:

**Appeal lodged by:** North/South

## Basis of appeal:

North always going to bid 4♥

## **APPEAL No : 15.010**

### **Director's comments:**

South has Unauthorised Information from North's non-alert of 3♥ also. The ruling on misinformation gives East/West a better score than any ruling from this consideration.

**Comments by North-South:** None

**Comments by East-West:** None

### **Appeals Committee decision:**

Director's ruling amended.

Deposit returned

### **Appeals Committee's comments:**

The Committee felt that the ruling was unduly harsh to North/South. East had passed throughout with 4-card support + a singleton + the arguments given are insufficiently convincing.

The Committee suggest that North/South be informed to describe the strong option as semi- or complete 3-suiters not as strong 2-suiters. The Committee do not believe that North/South would ever pass out 4♣ or double it. The Committee rules to both sides 70% of 5♣x – 1 and 30% of the table result.

**L&E Comment:** The Committee's ruling looks better than the TD's but we don't understand the write-up. What actually is the North/South agreement? What exactly was the MI provided and why did the MI affect East's choice of call? The TD appears to have ruled that you are automatically allowed a double shot when you aren't given a full explanation. The AC have done the same, but applied a bit more reasoning to how the auction might continue. We do not see why East was damaged as a consequence of any MI.

## APPEAL No : 15.010

15.010

JA: I presume from the TD's statement of facts that he ruled the correct explanation to be what was recorded on the convention card. It would be good practice for both the TD and the AC to explain how the misinformation affected East's call. I am guessing that East was (claiming to have been) put off by having length in both of the suits North had "shown". Whilst I agree with the AC that North will not necessarily pass out 4♣, I suspect there should be some other possibilities in the weighting. North might pass out 4♣ some of the time and on the occasions that he doubles, South might pull to 4♦ or 5♦ rather than 4♥ because South is expecting his partner to hold diamonds and spades. In the hypothetical auctions constructed by the TD, East/West are entitled to know the true N/S agreements, but South isn't if he didn't know them at the table.

HD: I am more inclined to agree with the director. East should probably have bid 4♣ anyway, but given the inaccurate explanation, he felt he had defence to a diamond or spade contract and would keep quiet in the hope that North-South went overboard in one of these suits and the bad break would defeat it. Had he been told it was a three-suiter (and it seems inexplicable to me why South chose to give this explanation) he would have bid 4♣ for certain. One of the possible outcomes is now that 4♣ becomes the final contract.

RJF: I think it more attractive to pass over 3♦ if it shows spades and diamonds than if it shows a three suiter. To that extent, East was damaged.

I think it incumbent on users of unfamiliar methods to ensure that they are explained fully and properly. East was hardly likely to have anticipated (from the explanation given at the table) that North might hold AKQx in hearts.

PL: I would not have adjusted at all. I don't see how any MI affected EW

TR: Another case where the MI doesn't seem to have influenced East's decision (as required by Law 21B1a for a change of call). Although Law 21 doesn't say so explicitly, I think that if East would not have been allowed to change his call, he can't have been damaged at that point. Damage could still occur subsequently, but it doesn't seem to in this case.

AW: It seems clear that there was MI (I don't think I understand the L&E's uncertainty about what the actual agreement was), but I can't see what difference it makes to East's decision about bidding over 3♦ whether N has D+S or D+H+S.

# APPEAL No : 15.011

**Tournament Director:** John Pyner

**Appeals Committee:** Tony Waterlow (C), Steve Auchterlonie, James Thrower

<p>♠ 962 ♥ Q ♦ Q3 ♣ KQJ9876</p> <p>♠ AK85                      ♠ J1074 ♥ K10987                    ♥ A654 ♦ 74                            ♦ A962 ♣ 103                         ♣ 4</p> <p>♠ Q3 ♥ J32 ♦ KJ1085 ♣ A52</p>	<p>Board 16 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1♥</td><td>2♣</td><td>3♣ (A)</td><td>4♣</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♥</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>(A) – meaning not recorded</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	1♥	2♣	3♣ (A)	4♣	4♥	Pass	Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass	5♥	All Pass
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>														
1♥	2♣	3♣ (A)	4♣														
4♥	Pass	Pass	5♣														
Pass	Pass	5♥	All Pass														

## Basic systems:

North-South system – not recorded

East-West system – not recorded

**Form of Scoring:** MP pairs

**Result at table:** 5♥ - 1 by W, +100. Lead: ♣K

**Director first called:** see below

## Director's statement of facts:

Play proceeded as follows: ♣K and another club ruffed in dummy. Declarer now led the ♥7 from the wrong hand. Nobody drew attention to the infraction, and after some time North played the ♥Q. Declarer played a spade to hand and then cashed ♥K, calling for the TD when North discarded. West protested North's pause before playing his singleton. North said he was waiting to see whether or not South wished to accept Declarer's lead out of turn. West claims she was damaged by North's hesitation.

## Director's ruling:

Law 9A2 says declarer or either defender may draw attention to an irregularity during the play period, not must. North has a demonstrable bridge reason for his break in tempo under Law 73F. Law 55A (Declarer's lead out of turn) also applies.

## Details of ruling:

Table result stands.

## Note by editor:

**Appeal lodged by:** East/West

**Basis of appeal:** North is at fault by his hesitation.



## **APPEAL No : 15.011**

**Director's comments:**

**Comments by North-South:** None

**Comments by East-West:** None

**Appeals Committee decision:**

Director's ruling stands.

Deposit returned

**Appeals Committee's comments:**

North has a reason for his pause.

It may be that this situation should be covered in the rules as an allowed hesitation.

**L&E Comment:** Obvious to keep the deposit. Why didn't they?

15.011

JA: In my view the TD's ruling is correct and the AC agreed. The only question is whether the deposit should have been retained. As I think this depends on quite how the TD explained his ruling to the players, I am not going to criticise the AC for returning it.

HD: I agree with the ruling. Whether I kept the deposit would depend on the experience of West.

RJF: No comment

PL: I agree completely with the decision but would also return the deposit as it often interpreted by people that it an infraction to hesitate with a singleton and this situation is not clarified in the White Book, as far as I can see

TR: No Comment

AW: I wonder how well the TD explained his original decision. It is very clear that North does indeed have a bridge reason to think, and if this was explained to EW then I think the L&E are right that the deposit should have been retained.

# APPEAL No : 15.013

**Tournament Director:** Neil Morley

**Appeals Committee:** Andrew Thompson (C), Eddie Williams, Robert Plumley

<p>♠ QJ84 ♥ AK42 ♦ J9 ♣ J103</p> <p>♠ AK7653      ♠ 9 ♥ J853          ♥ Q976 ♦ 3              ♦ KQ108742 ♣ Q5            ♣ K</p> <p>♠ 102 ♥ 10 ♦ A65 ♣ A987642</p>	<p>Board 15 : Dealer South : NS vulnerable</p> <table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♦ (1)</td><td>3♣</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>All Pass</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>(1) Hesitation (with huffing and puffing – not able to prove). Break in tempo agreed.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	3♠	Pass	4♦ (1)	3♣				All Pass
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>										
3♠	Pass	4♦ (1)	3♣										
			All Pass										

## Basic systems:

North-South system – not recorded

East-West system – not recorded

**Form of Scoring:** IMPs to VPs

**Result at table:** 4♦ - 2 by East, +100. Lead ♥10

**Director first called:** during the auction

## Director's statement of facts:

I was called to the table during the auction and acquainted of the facts and allowed the auction to complete and board played. I was re-called at the end of play. I did not poll players but did suggest that NS might like to talk to an experienced player.

## Director's ruling:

Score stands.

## Details of ruling:

I allowed the score to stand although West did have UI. The slow bid did not suggest that pass would be beneficial. i.e. it was not suggested by the slow bid.

If East wanted to force West to bid a cue bid of clubs would be forcing. If East had spade support then bidding spades at 4 or 5 level. While some partnerships would use 4♦ as a cue bid agreeing spades I do not believe this is the case with this partnership as they are fairly newly formed.

## Note by editor:

**Appeal lodged by:** North/South

## Basis of appeal:

None given

## APPEAL No : 15.013

**Director's comments:**

**Comments by North-South:** None

**Comments by East-West:** None

**Appeals Committee decision:**

Director's ruling stands.  
Deposit returned

**Appeals Committee's comments:**

We considered that the 4♦ would be forcing, however the pass [sic] does not always suggest a weak hand, it could be strong, looking for a slam.

We might suggest that a record of this hand [be shown to the L&E Committee]

**L&E Comment:**

15.013

JA: I agree with the TD and the AC. It is not clear what the UI suggests here, so "no adjustment" seems right.

HD: I agree with the director. I can't see that a slow 4♦ bid shows anything particular. A bid of this type is unlikely to be made quickly, whatever its meaning. It certainly doesn't suggest one action over another.

RJF: There seems to be a misprint in the AC comment – maybe "pass" should read "pause".

PL: Normally 4♦ would be forcing, but I agree with the AC that the BIT does not suggest it is not.

TR: No Comment

AW: I applaud the AC's attempt to consider what was suggested by the UI, rather than simply to assume that it suggested the sort of hand actually held, but I am slightly surprised by their conclusion on this issue. I suspect East would have found it an easier call to make if intended as showing slam interest.

# APPEAL No : 15.014

**Tournament Director:** Robin Barker

**Appeals Committee:** Brian Senior (C), Mike Bell, Rumen Trendafilov

<p>♠ 7 ♥ 1053 ♦ KQJ64 ♣ J984</p> <p>♠ K1092      ♠ J83 ♥ 74            ♥ AKQJ82 ♦ A108         ♦ 95 ♣ A1052       ♣ Q3</p> <p>♠ AQ654 ♥ 96 ♦ 732 ♣ K76</p>	<p>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♥</td><td>1♠</td></tr><tr><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></tbody></table>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			1♥	1♠	2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>										
		1♥	1♠										
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass										

## Basic systems:

North-South system – not recorded

East-West system – not recorded

**Form of Scoring:** IMPs (KO)

**Result at table:** 3NT – 1 by West, +50; Lead ♦ K

**Director first called:** At the end of hand.

## Director's statement of facts:

♦ K ducked, ♦ Q: South played ♦ 7 then ♦ x. Declarer asked and was told on king lead they unblock the queen or give standard count. South thought the agreement was reverse attitude.

Declarer won the second diamond and went off. The convention card and system notes were not conclusive about the explanation of their signals on the king lead.

## Director's ruling:

3NY by West making 9 tricks.

## Details of ruling:

Not enough evidence to decide the explanation of ♦ 7 signal was correct. With different information, declarer would duck trick two. (Laws 21B1(b), 47E2(b), 12C1)

## Note by editor:

**Appeal lodged by:** East/West

## Basis of appeal:

**Director's comments:**

## **APPEAL No : 15.014**

**Comments by North-South:** None

**Comments by East-West:** None

### **Appeals Committee decision:**

Director's ruling amended.  
Deposit returned

### **Appeals Committee's comments:**

Split score.  
For NS, 3NT + 1 by West, NS -430  
For EW, 3NT – 1 by West, NS +50

Score calculations  
At the other table 3NT + 1 by EW, NS – 430  
For NS, 0 IMPs  
For EW, -10 IMPs.  
Under Law 86B this becomes NS + 5 IMPs, EW – 5 IMPs.

### **L&E Comment:**

The TD has determined MI of N/S signalling methods and the AC's adjustment to NS -430 is clear (the table TD agreed that if he had considered the play in more detail he would also have adjusted to 430 rather than 400). However the AC did not explain the legal basis for splitting the score. 12C1b allows this if an action is wild, gambling or a serious error unrelated to the infraction. We don't think any of these apply here; even if winning the second diamond is classed as a serious error, the AC has effectively ignored the "unrelated to the infraction" phrase.

### **Chief TD's Comment:**

This appeal was heard late at night and the result had no effect on the match result. In other circumstances I would have discussed further the legal basis of the AC's ruling at the time with the AC chair.

## APPEAL No : 15.014

15.014

JA: The split score is interesting. This hand was played whilst the 2007 Laws were in operation. The wording of Law 12C1(b) was:

“If, subsequent to the irregularity, the non-offending side has contributed to its own damage by a serious error (unrelated to the infraction) or by wild or gambling action it does not receive relief in the adjustment for such part of the damage as is self-inflicted. The offending side should be awarded the score that it would have been allotted as the consequence of its infraction only.”

Was the failure to duck the second diamond a serious error (unrelated to the infraction), a wild action or a gambling action? The AC should have specified which of these applied as it is imperative to that all AC decisions are legal and it is good practice to demonstrate why they are legal. I suppose one could argue that taking the second diamond is a “gambling action”, jeopardising the contract to increase the chances of a second overtrick when the diamonds are 6-2. However, this seems harsh to me as sometimes overtricks are important in tight knockout matches and many players do make extra tricks by relying on their opponents’ signals.

HD: Should you duck the second diamond in order to guard against having been given the wrong information about the signaling? Here it could cost you an extra overtrick since winning the second diamond would enable you to make elven tricks, scoring 3 spades, 6 hearts, a diamond and a club. I have sympathy with declarer and would rule 430 to East-West.

RJF: I would have expected the TD to consider a procedural penalty for the inadequate completion of the convention card.

PL: I agree that not ducking the diamond is related to the infraction, so would award 10 tricks to both sides.

TR: The only legal basis for splitting the score would be if West’s action was gambling. I suppose he might have been hoping to gain an extra IMP by winning the second trick, but it would only be gambling if he had reason to believe that the explanation given was incorrect.

AW: It would have been helpful to see something about the basis of NS’s appeal – the TD’s ruling seems fine to me, with little room for argument.

# APPEAL No : 15.015

**Tournament Director:** Robin Barker

**Appeals Committee:** Jon Cooke (C), Derek Sanders, Hugh McGann

<p>♠ J109 ♥ Q53 ♦ 975 ♣ AQ83</p> <p>♠ K4                      ♠ A8 ♥ A764                    ♥ J10982 ♦ AQ10                    ♦ KJ ♣ J942                    ♣ K1075</p> <p>♠ Q76532 ♥ K ♦ 86432 ♣ 6</p>	<p>Board 25 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>1♥</td><td>2NT (A1)</td></tr><tr><td>Dbl (A2)</td><td>4♣</td><td>Dbl (A3)</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>6♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></tbody></table> <p>1. Explained as the minors 2. Values 3. See below</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		Pass	1♥	2NT (A1)	Dbl (A2)	4♣	Dbl (A3)	Pass	6♥	All Pass		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>														
	Pass	1♥	2NT (A1)														
Dbl (A2)	4♣	Dbl (A3)	Pass														
6♥	All Pass																

## Basic systems:

North-South system – not recorded

East-West system – not recorded

**Form of Scoring:** IMPs (KO)

**Result at table:** 6♥ - 2 by E, +200

**Director first called:** At the end of hand.

## Director's statement of facts:

North's system card showed 2NT as two suits but did not specify; South's card indicated that 2NT showed ♦ and ♠ (specifically). According to West, East's double (3) showed a good hand with no clear direction but if 4♣ was not supporting one of South's suits, double would be penalties.

## Director's ruling:

Weighted score: 50% of 4♥ = by East, -620; 50% of 4♣ x – 5 by North, -1100

## Details of ruling:

More than sufficient evidence to rule misexplanation rather than misbid. Without the misinformation, West might choose to show a raise of hearts (3♦?) since the opponents may raise spades and EW will either end in 4♥ or take the opportunity to defend 4♣x.

## Note by editor:

**Appeal lodged by:** North/South, East/West, Both sides

**Basis of appeal:**

**Director's comments:**

**Comments by North-South:** None

## **APPEAL No : 15.015**

**Comments by East-West:** None

### **Appeals Committee decision:**

Director's ruling amended.  
Deposit returned

### **Appeals Committee's comments:**

Score adjusted to 4♣x – 7 by North, -1700

We had to decide two things. Firstly, what would have happened had the infraction (mis-explanation of meaning of 2NT) not occurred. Secondly, did the non-offending side make a 'serious error' or take 'wild or gambling' action.

Regarding the first point; with the correct explanation, we believe the quoted hand, looking at only a doubleton spade would probably have made its UCB of 3♦ to show its heart raise. It might still have doubled. In either case, we saw no reason why North would have deviated from his table action and bid 4♣. The next hand has an obvious double and with no thought that the opponents have a big club fit, pass is clear. Deep finesse says it makes two tricks but we thought three more likely as the defence to hold to two tricks was obscure. We believed, had the opponents known your arrangements, the result would have been 4♣x probably making three tricks.

Regarding the second point, we think the West player looked at his four clubs and it simply did not occur to him that his partner wasn't short in clubs. He let himself be influenced by his club length and thought he could make a slam opposite extra values. It doesn't matter whether we thought that was a good bid or not; his 6♥ call would have been okay opposite a hand with extra values and short clubs, which we had reasons to believe related to the mis-explanation, and we did not therefore consider it as wild or gambling. We do not believe he dreamt that there had been a system error by the opponents.

**L&E Comment:** None



## APPEAL No : 15.015

15.015

JA: This is not an easy hand to rule on, but I tend to prefer a hybrid between the TD's ruling and the AC's. Assuming the correct explanation, both agree that West would now bid 3♦ to show a good raise. It is far clearer to West that double of 4♣ is penalties once he has shown a fit. The TD is judging that North would still bid 4♣ some of the time, but might well pass. The AC is ruling on the basis that North would always bid 4♣. I would consider 4♣ to be more attractive on the North hand before the opponents have found their fit; there's less point to the bid when the opponents have raised hearts. Hence a weighted ruling is attractive, even if we end up with a higher percentage of 4♣x than heart contracts (games) and we concur with the AC's assessment on the number of tricks that contract might make.

HD: I agree with the AC. The only question is how many tricks are likely to be made in 4♣, however the AC view looks reasonable.

RJF: The AC did a good job on this one.

PL: I don't understand the AC decision at all. Any lead other than a trump beats 4♣x by eight tricks. Normal is a heart lead and club switch and there is no way for declarer to make more than one heart and one club. Had I been EW and awarded only -1700, I would not have felt too grand and would have appealed to the national authority on the grounds of hopeless single-dummy analysis. 4♣x-8, EW+2000 was completely automatic here.

TR: The threshold for wild or gambling is quite high, and although West's actions are optimistic, I don't think they meet the threshold for him to lose redress.

AW: Neither the TD nor the AC seem to have provided a clear explanation of what they concluded the NS agreement actually was. But whether it was D+S or "a specific 2-suiter, but we have no actual agreement about which 2 suits", the actual explanation received of "minors" was MI. The TD and AC have made different assessments of what would have happened without MI, but neither seems completely unreasonable.

# APPEAL No : 15.016

**Tournament Director:** Robin Barker

**Appeals Committee:** Brian Senior (C), Mike Bell, Rumen Trendafilov

<p>♠ Q98 ♥ QJ4 ♦ Q76532 ♣ 8</p> <p>♠ J642                      ♠ 7 ♥ 6                              ♥ 1098732 ♦ 9                              ♦ 108 ♣ AQJ7632                  ♣ K954</p> <p>♠ AK1053 ♥ AK5 ♦ AKJ4 ♣ 10</p>	<p>Board 32 : Dealer West : EW vulnerable</p> <table><thead><tr><th><b>West</b></th><th><b>North</b></th><th><b>East</b></th><th><b>South</b></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣ (A1)</td></tr><tr><td>3♣</td><td>3♦ (A2)</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>4♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>6♦</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">All Pass</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>A1) 18 to 21 balanced or stronger unbalanced A2) (uncertain) transfer</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣ (A1)	3♣	3♦ (A2)	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦	Pass	6♦	All Pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
Pass	Pass	Pass	2♣ (A1)																		
3♣	3♦ (A2)	Pass	3♥																		
Pass	4♦	Pass	6♦																		
All Pass																					

## Basic systems:

North-South system – not recorded

East-West system – not recorded

**Form of Scoring:** IMPs KO

**Result at table:** 6♦ + 1 by N, +940

**Director first called:** Before the start of the next board.

## Director's statement of facts:

Before bidding 3♥ South said something like 'I suppose I should alert' and then 'transfer'.

At the end of the hand, North said he had intended 3♦ as natural.

At this point the TD was called: East/West were concerned about potential use of unauthorised information.

## Director's ruling:

Weighted: 25% of each of -150, -200, -250, -300 for both sides.

## Details of ruling:

North has unauthorised information: 4♥ and perhaps 4♣ are logical alternatives to 4♦, 4♦ is suggested by the alert of 3♦. Once North shows heart support both North/South will think they have supported each other's hearts and there will be no way back to diamonds.

Weighted score: final contract of 4♥ or 6♥ making 6 or 7 tricks.

## Note by editor:

**Appeal lodged by:** North/South

**Basis of appeal:**

**Director's comments:**

## APPEAL No : 15.016

**Comments by North-South:** None

**Comments by East-West:** None

### **Appeals Committee decision:**

Director's ruling stands.  
Deposit returned

### **Appeals Committee's comments:**

There was much discussion with the players, in particular to determine North/South understandings on this auction; much further discussion as committee.

The alerts / non-alerts (of 3♦ and 3♥ in particular) did not allow North/South a way to escape; ultimately no reason to change the TDs ruling.

**L&E Comment:** No reason to return the deposit. NS should know better, and we would also have given them a penalty for misuse of UI. Simply adjusting the score afterwards is not a disincentive for illegally using UI.

15.016

JA: The director's weighted adjustment, confirmed by the AC, is well reasoned. However North's 4♦ bid is such a blatant breach of (2007) Laws 16A, 16B, 73B1 and 73C that it should have attracted a procedural penalty. Some club players are confused by the UI Laws, but this hand occurred in the late stages of the Spring Foursomes and international players such as North/South should know much, much better.

The form does not specify the basis of appeal; if N/S were somehow claiming that they should be allowed to ignore the UI, then the basis of appeal would be frivolous and I would expect the deposit to be retained.

HD: I agree with the L&E on the surface of it, but there is not a great deal of detail and I don't know what NS said in their defence.

RJF: No comment

PL: I would agree with retaining the deposit, and a standard PP to NS.

TR: What North/South's agreements were is irrelevant; there was UI and North took blatant advantage of it. An international player should know his responsibilities, and a procedural penalty should have been applied to remind him of them.

AW: The L&E have already said everything that needs saying, really.

# APPEAL No : 15.017

**Tournament Director:** Gordon Rainsford

**Appeals Committee:** Frances Hinden (Referee)

<p>♠ 8642 ♥ KQ82 ♦ K10 ♣ Q54</p> <p>♠ J1073      ♠ 9 ♥ 103          ♥ AJ7654 ♦ 642          ♦ J97 ♣ A873          ♣ 1096</p> <p>♠ AKQ5 ♥ 9 ♦ AQ853 ♣ KJ2</p>	<p>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦ (1)</td><td>2♥ (2)</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♥ (3)</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td></tr><tr><td>4♠</td><td>Dbl</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table> <p>1) Multi, alerted 2) Agreed as Dixon, which South thought was this sort of hand and North thought was natural. 3) No agreement. South thought it should be natural 4+ hearts.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		Pass	2♦ (1)	2♥ (2)	Pass	3♥ (3)	Pass	3NT	4♠	Dbl	All Pass	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>														
	Pass	2♦ (1)	2♥ (2)														
Pass	3♥ (3)	Pass	3NT														
4♠	Dbl	All Pass															

## Basic systems:

North-South system – not recorded

East-West system – not recorded

**Form of Scoring:** IMPs KO

**Result at table:** 4♠ x – 7 by West, +1700

**Director first called:** Some days after the event, when there had apparently been a difference of opinion about procedure, though EW had made it known at the time that they would be seeking a ruling.

## Director's statement of facts:

### Director's ruling:

Split and weighted:

For North/South, 60% of 4♠x – 7 by West, +1700; and 40% of 4♥x – 2 by North, -500

For East/West, 100% of 4♠x – 7 by West.

### Details of ruling:

I have consulted Robin Barker and my ruling follows. We have ignored the various extraneous matters that have been introduced and simply considered the ruling on the board. However, I would like to draw everyone's attention to the regulations for asking for a ruling in a match played privately and ask that in future you all follow them.

1. This is an example of why it is always preferable to describe the meaning of calls rather than using their names. That is particularly so in this case since not only do North and South not agree as to what 'Dixon' means but neither of them seems to use it in its widely-understood form.
2. North stated that the 2♥ call is not alertable because it is natural. We think that if played in the traditional Dixon manner, to show a takeout of either major, possibly on a 4-card suit, it is alertable because of the information it contains about the other suits and because the

## APPEAL No : 15.017

possibility of it being a 4-card suit is likely to be unexpected. As an aside it is worth noting that had it been alerted and a full description not requested during the auction, there would have been no UI available for South.

3. We think there was MI and the correct information would have been something like: “we agreed to play Dixon a long time ago but it has not come up and we have not checked whether we have the same understanding of it”.
4. There was UI provided to South by the lack of the alert of his 2♥ bid. That UI suggests his rebid of 3NT, but having conducted a poll I do not think there is any logical alternative to the 3NT rebid. Even though South’s assertion that North’s 3♥ bid might only be a 4-card suit is not credible, South is not going to pass or raise 3♥ with a singleton, especially given that North is a passed hand.
5. As to the question of MI, it seems to us that although the correct information as described above would make West a bit less likely to bid 4♠, the difference between the information that was given and that to which West is entitled is not so significant as to ensure that he would always pass and so a weighted ruling is appropriate – we think it should be based on 40% of the table result and 60% of what would happen if West did not bid 4♠.
6. North has said that if West had not bid 4♠ he, North would most likely have bid 4♥. That might be doubled by East and if so I do not think a South player (with or without UI) would pull it – having already pulled 3♥ to 3NT, I think South would just leave North to his own devices over 4♥.
7. If East did not double 4♥ (because of the risk that they might be able to get to a better spot) then it seems that West would now bid 4♠: this auction would appear to clarify which side holds which major suit, and a West who bid 4♠ on the actual auction would surely be keen to bid on over an undoubled 4♥.
8. West’s 4♠ on the actual auction does seem to be gambling within the meaning of Law 12C1b. the argument has been presented that they would unlikely to go for more than 500 unless the opponents have a slam on and thus would ‘probably gain’. This seems to assume that 3NT is making which, if the various cards were where they might be expected to be from the auction, is far from certain and it is this that seems to make the call a gamble.
9. Accordingly the ruling is that East/West keep their table score under Law 12C1b.
10. For North/South the result is adjusted as follows:
  - a. 60% of the table result, reached via West bidding 4♠ immediately over the 3NT bid 40% of the time, and otherwise bidding 4♠ on the next round whenever North’s 4♠ call is not doubled (⅓ of 60%)
  - b. 40% of North/South scoring -500 from playing in 4♥ doubled making 8 tricks ⅓ of the time that West passes over 3NT.

**Note by editor:**

**Appeal lodged by:** North/South

**Basis of appeal:**

**Director’s comments:**

## APPEAL No : 15.017

**Comments by North-South:** North commented on each of the points from the TDs ruling

1. 20 years ago when we played more regularly I'm sure we discussed the meaning of 'Dixon' as much as we discussed 'Stayman' or 'Baron'. With every person I play the defence with, the meaning of various bids are double – 12 to 15 balanced; 2NT 16 to 18 balanced. All bids are natural and general 5+-cards but might be 4-cards as is allowed at the 1-level; no mention of shortage in the other major has ever been made in any partnership I play in.
2. As stated we might be playing it in the traditional sense the bids are natural and generally 5+-cards, meanings are being placed on my bids would never have been expressed at the table even if I was interrogated for any length of time. The 2♥ bid was natural and likely 5 cards, with no restrictions on the length of spades. If West wants to believe partner has short spades, then so be it.
3. I was asked 'what's going on' or words to that effect and I replied that the bidding (referring to my partners) was natural as I previously stated. If I was asked detailed questions, which I was not, I could not have given more information in honesty. My partner was not asked any questions at the table to my recollection. Also 'based on the bidding' how am I as North supposed to know in a live auction that my partner's understanding of Dixon is currently incorrect; if I give this information to the opposition then surely this might open up an even more detailed appeal if it turns out to be even more incorrect, and pass on more UI to partner? I also reiterate my point that West, the 4♠ bidder did not ask once as to the meaning of any bid.
4. I cannot answer for my partner South, but from my perspective he could have ♠AQ ♥J1098x ♦AJx ♣A109 and didn't fancy 2NT versus a passed partner.
5. West would have been given the explanation hearts and natural, explanations are placed in my mouth which I would never have given. I would also not have suggested he had short spades, West could use his bridge judgement if he chooses.
6. I might have asked West what the double was and found out it was penalty; I might have worked out myself what was going on and pulled it to 4NT.
7. Did not West have the opportunity to bid 2♠ over 2♥, this might have clarified the situation at a lower level. West also might have realised the wheels have fallen off for NS and indeed keep quiet, but he didn't, bidding 4♠ when you have likely 10 to 14 points with a known spade stop over partner's supposed holding seem like a very risky bid.
8. No comment
9. No comment
10. As the captain is aware any reduction of the score leaves us losing the match (I assume), I believe the TD has canvassed other directors, however as this is a KO competition with high national standing I would like to appeal on behalf of my partner, myself and team.

**Comments by East-West:** None

### Appeals Committee decision:

Director's ruling amended. NS score adjusted to:

30% of 4♥ undoubled -2

20% of 4♠x-7

15% of 6♠ undoubled -2

35% of 6♦ undoubled -2

EW score: Director's adjustment confirmed.

Deposit returned

## APPEAL No : 15.017

### Referee's comments:

#### Was there MI?

NS agreed to play 'Dixon' without further discussion. They had different ideas about what a 2N overcall should show, neither of which was in the original Dixon defence. It can be argued that North/South actually had 'no agreement' and that is all that East/West are entitled to. Under the agreement, 2♥ was not alertable (there was no agreement, and North was assuming it was natural) and 3♥ was not alertable (no agreement, and South decided to treat it as natural) and there is therefore no MI and the table result should stand. After consideration, I do not consider this to be correct. NS had discussed the auction and had agreed to play a specialized defence; that raises the possibility that 2♥ might not be natural which a pure 'no agreement' would not. The extent of the NS agreement was 'we have agreed to play a convention called Dixon. We have not discussed it any further'. North believed that the agreement was to play 2♥ as natural; the lack of alert of 2♥ gave West the information, indirectly, that the NS agreement was to play 2♥ as natural. It is not relevant, but I consider it likely that NS were in agreement about the meaning of a double of 2♦.

It is also an interesting question whether 3♥ should have been alerted. South knew that North intended it to be natural; South also – at the table – bid on the assumption it was natural. It is correct to use UI for alerting decisions and for explanations; if South were certain that his partner was correct about the agreement and that 3♥ was systemically natural, he would be right not to alert. South must also have been aware that, having bid 2♥ meaning heart shortage, there should be at least a possibility that 3♥ was intended as a cue bid (as in the auction 2♥ (natural and weak) dbl P 3♥). However, even if South did alert 3H (which I think would have been good practice), EW are not entitled to more than "we have not discussed the meaning of this bid".

In conclusion, I agree with the TD that EW did have misinformation, not being told that the agreement was Dixon but the meanings of 2M and 3M had not been discussed. I do not believe that EW are entitled to know what the original published Dixon convention involved (2H showing a non-forcing take-out of spades) because neither North nor South had that information. EW are also not entitled to know what South believed the 2♥ bid to mean nor what North believed the 3H bid to mean.

#### Was there unauthorised information, and should the score be adjusted on that basis

South has UI from the lack of alert of 2♥ that his partner thinks 2♥ is natural. That gives him UI that 3H was intended as natural, and that the auction is in danger of going completely off the rails. The TD ruled that there was no LA to the 3NT bid chosen at the table.

I understand that the TD polled a number of players on South's second call, telling them that the 3♥ bid was 'undiscussed, presumably natural' and that no-one objected to this description.

I carried out a more open-ended poll among a number of players I considered to be peers of South. I told them the limit of the partnership discussion, asked what they thought 3♥ meant and what they would bid next. 19 people replied. After excluding one abstention (who objected to not having agreed what 2♥ meant) and three who didn't realise that partner is a passed hand, I was left with

1 3NT bid, who thought 3♥ must be showing a stop in the suit

3 votes for 4♦ and 3 votes for 6♦, believing partner has a maximum pass with both minors

1 vote of 4NT (Blackwood in spades)

1 vote for 4♠, believing partner has a good raise to 3♠

6 votes for 4♥, being unsure what 3♥ means but with a 19-count believing this caters for everything

## APPEAL No : 15.017

One of the replies is typical of the thinking: "An interesting problem and one that I might well have been faced with at the table since our team defence to the multi is the same as that of the unknown pair in your poll, including the lack of a clear agreement on how we proceed." He continued to say that 3♥ was either invitational to 4♠, both minors, or one long minor and that 4♥ caters for all of them.

On that basis I rule that South was in receipt of UI, the UI demonstrably suggests bidding 3NT, and that South has a number of logical alternatives other than 3NT.

I am giving a weighted ruling assuming that 50% of the time South bids 4♦ (or 6♦) and over North's obvious 4♦ bid eventually plays in either 6♦ or possibly 6♠ both undoubled and both two off. I do not believe that East will double 4♥: he did not double 3♥ at the table, and most players are delighted to hear the opponents trying to land in their long suit.

The other 50% of the time South bids 4♥.

### Consequence of the MI

On 50% of the revised auctions, West hears the auction 2♦ \* 2♥ P 3♥ P 4♥ ? With complete information he knows only that (i) NS have agreed to play Dixon but have not discussed the 2M bids; (ii) North's 3♥ bid was intended as natural. On that basis, given the auction at the table, I rule (in line with the TD's ruling) that West would still bid 4S 40% of the time; he will not get a second chance over 4♥ as South's 4♥ will be passed out. The other 60% of the time West, aware of a slightly greater potential for a misunderstanding, passes 4♥. I do not believe East will double this for the same reason: he is in the pass-out seat hearing the opponents play in his long suit and has no reason to disturb the final contract. I do not believe that East would ever run from 4♠x to 5♥.

**The combination of the above leads to the following weighted results for NS:**

**30% of 4♥ undoubled -2**

**20% of 4♠x-7**

**15% of 6♠ undoubled -2**

**35% of 6♦ undoubled -2 (there was little thought put into the split between 6♠ and 6♦ as the score is the same for each)**

### "Wild or Gambling"

The TD ruled that West's 4♠ bid over 3NT on the actual auction was 'gambling' within the meaning of Law 12C1b. There is very little precedent on what makes a bid 'wild' or 'gambling' (rather more has been written on the concept of serious error). I did another, admittedly more limited poll (I was running out of suitable players in my address book!) and found no-one who bid 4♠ over 3NT on the original auction. On that basis, it is not a logical alternative. The Laws do not equate 'wild' with 'not a logical alternative' but that seems a good place to start. EW have suggested that the auction is similar to one starting 2♠ dbl ? or 2♠ 2NT ? but there is one major and two minor differences. The major difference is that after the auction starts 2♠ dbl ? the opponents have not yet found a fit or established whether it is a part score, game or slam hand. Pre-emption thus has a lot of value as opponents are more likely to mis-guess. On the actual auction both players have already limited their hands (2♥, 3♥ and 3NT all apparently natural and non-forcing) and the advantage of pre-emption has now completely disappeared. It is just a matter of whether 4♠ is cheaper than 3NT/4♥. The minor differences are that (i) LHO is a passed hand, so there is less value in pre-emption as he is already somewhat limited, and (ii) anyone who has played the multi for any length of time knows that the opponents are often on uncertain ground. The argument that if 4♠ goes for 800, then opponents have a slam on, is specious. The opponents have not bid a slam and clearly are not going



## APPEAL No : 15.017

to. If declarer has two spade stops, then 4♠x is more likely to be 800 than 500. If declarer has only one spade stop (more likely given the known 10-card fit) then he needs to have 5 hearts and 3 diamonds, or 6 hearts and two diamonds. Not impossible, but by no means certain (if declarer is missing a red suit queen he may well play West for it rather than East). It is extremely likely that North is about to bid 4♥ because he is known to be short in spades. That is a lot more likely to be making than 3NT and I would be likely to deem it not wild or gambling to 'save' over 4♥.

My dictionary defines wild as 'uncontrolled or unrestrained' which seems to me a fair description of the 4♠ bid.

**Accordingly for EW I maintain the TD's ruling and retain the table result of 4Sx-7.**

**L&E Comment:** None

15.017

JA: This is the most thoroughly researched and written up Referee decision I can recall seeing (and original TD ruling was also well considered). It is hard to fault the Referee's logic even though we know that a different Referee (or maybe even the same Referee with less time to come up with a ruling) would have come up with a different set of weightings in the final analysis.

Personally, I would regard West's 4♠ bid as poor and ill-judged for all of the reasons explained by the Referee. However, there was a logic to making the bid and I think it is harsh to classify it as either wild or gambling; there was no 'double shot' element present; the player was confident from the opponents' auction and explanations that they had hearts so his partner's suit must be spades. Alighting in a 4-1 fit appears to be wild looking at all four hands, but in reality the bid was not quite as silly as it looked!

HD: I have more sympathy with the 4♠ bid than other seem to. West has been told that 2♥ is natural and has heard it raised. Now 3NT has been offered as an alternative contract and West seems to have ascertained that they have a heart fit, and therefore that partner's suit is spades. With a known 10 card fit and at favourable vulnerability why is it so wild to save? True game may not make, however with just 5 points and a big fit for partner I don't think it such a bad shot. I think some weighted/split score is appropriate however giving East-West the whole of -1700 is too harsh when they are the ones who have been misinformed.

RJF: I disagree with most of this. North-South were entirely responsible for what happened: if you agree to play a convention, you should know what it is and be able to explain it properly. In particular, it would be entirely useless to tell the other side that they have agreed to play "Dixon" but don't know what it is.

Nor do I think that 4♠ is wild or gambling. On the basis of the auction and explanation, East clearly has spades – 4♠ may be a misjudgment but it is no worse than that.

PL: I think the AC did a good job.

TR: Both the TD and Referee have given this a lot of thought and explained their thinking (and subsequent rulings) excellently. I am happy with both of the rulings – North/South clearly generated UI and MI, and West's 4♠ was wild.

AW: Phew! A lot to read! Both the original ruling and the appeal ruling show clear and careful thinking, and seem to be on the right lines.

# APPEAL No : 15.020

**Tournament Director:** Gary Conrad

**Appeals Committee:** Frances Hinden (C), Chris Dixon, Ed Scerri

<p>♠ 1097 ♥ A ♦ AQ108 ♣ K7432</p> <p>♠ AKQ54      ♠ 86 ♥ 1098      ♥ QJ532 ♦ J954      ♦ K32 ♣ A      ♣ J109</p> <p>♠ J32 ♥ K764 ♦ 76 ♣ Q865</p>	<p>Board 20 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Dbf</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Dbf (1)</td><td>3♣</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table> <p>(1) Before double of 2NT, West asked a question of South</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass	Pass	Dbf	Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass	Pass	Dbf (1)	3♣	All Pass	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																		
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass																		
Pass	Dbf	Pass	2♥																		
Pass	2NT	Pass	Pass																		
Dbf (1)	3♣	All Pass																			

## Basic systems:

North-South system – not recorded

East-West system – not recorded

**Form of Scoring:** MPs

**Result at table:** 3♣ - 1 by N (-100)

**Director first called:** At the end of hand.

## Director's statement of facts:

I was called to the table at the end of the hand. West said they were damaged by misinformation. Before doubling 2NT, West asked South for an explanation of North's bidding. South stated that North was strong with a stop in spades. Based on this information, West doubled for penalties. South then immediately bid 3♣ which was passed out.

West stated that with the correct explanation he would have passed out 2NT.

**Director's ruling:** 2NT – 4 by North (-400)

## Details of ruling:

After consultation I ruled that the 3♣ bid was illegal as it was based on the UI of his partner's answer to the question. As West stated he would have passed out 2NT and not doubled, that was my ruling (Law 16)

**Appeal lodged by:** North/South, East/West, Both sides

**Basis of appeal:** North's bid of 3♣ is automatic

**Director's comments:**

**Comments by North-South:** None

**Comments by East-West:** None

## APPEAL No : 15.020

### Appeals Committee decision:

Director's ruling amended. Table result of 3♣ - 1 by North restored.  
Deposit returned

### Appeals Committee's comments:

The North/South methods were as described. No MI or UI, hence table result stands.  
The North/South methods are such that North cannot show a strong balanced hand over 1♠ and thus the auction does indeed show this hand. Hence no UI or MI.

Accusing the opponents of deliberately taking a double shot in order to then appeal a ruling if it fails is rude and unnecessary and was close to receiving a procedural penalty.

**L&E Comment:** None

15.020

JA: Something does not seem right here and my initial reaction is to prefer the TD's ruling to the AC's final decision. Yes, North/South were playing an unusual defence (presumably a 1NT overcall would not have been natural), but what hand type and strength did North believe he was showing with this pass/double/2NT sequence? If he had the hand he had shown, why was he so quick to run to 3♣? The AC might have asked these questions, but if so, I would like to have seen the answers written up.

HD: I agree with the AC. North was improvising with 2NT as 2H couldn't be left. Once 2NT was doubled 3♣ was a good description of the hand. I'm not surprised that South expected a spade stopper but there was no UI.

RJF: I do not understand the AC comments that there was no MI or UI. South said that North was strong balanced with a stop in spades: surely it is UI for North that (whether or not either or both of North's bid or the explanation were wrong) South expects North to have a different type of hand? Putting it another way, if South explained that North was showing an unbalanced hand with opening bid values but short in hearts and then passed 2NT, what reason would North have to bid 3♣?

PL: Agree with the comments by the AC

TR: There's no UI as long as North knew that his 2NT bid showed a strong hand with a spade stop. But if he did, why did he bid it in the first place?  
The AC determined that the North/South agreement was that 2NT was as described, so there was no MI and West's double must stand. However, UI is still potentially present and North's 3♣ bid is under question. The TD's original ruling was that it should be disallowed – the AC did not consider this. I'd want to hear North's explanation for bidding as he did.

AW: I have more sympathy with the TD than the AC here, but perhaps I have misunderstood something. The AC seem to have established that NS's agreements required North to bid his hand the way he did. But how can that mean there is no MI, since the hand is clearly different from the explanation given to West? And how can there be no UI, since North has heard an explanation that implies South is expecting a different hand from the one that he has? The AC's comment about accusing the opponents of a double shot is also obscure since there is nothing else in the write-up to explain which pair the AC are admonishing here.

# APPEAL No : 15.021

**Tournament Director:** Robert Sassoon

**Appeals Committee:** Jeffrey Allerton, Dee Lindon, Andrew Southwell

<p>♠ J986 ♥ AKQ9652 ♦ K2 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ 10                      ♠ A43 ♥ J3                        ♥ 74 ♦ A1087                  ♦ QJ953 ♣ AK10987              ♣ Q43</p> <p>♠ KQ752 ♥ 108 ♦ 64 ♣ J652</p>	<p>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</p> <table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♣</td><td>Dbl</td><td>1♦</td><td>1♠</td></tr><tr><td>2♦</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass (H)</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>5♦</td><td>5♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♠</td></tr><tr><td>Dbl</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></tbody></table> <p>(H) agreed slow</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			Pass	Pass	1♣	Dbl	1♦	1♠	2♦	4♠	Pass (H)	Pass	5♦	5♥	Pass	5♠	Dbl	All Pass		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																						
		Pass	Pass																						
1♣	Dbl	1♦	1♠																						
2♦	4♠	Pass (H)	Pass																						
5♦	5♥	Pass	5♠																						
Dbl	All Pass																								

## Basic systems:

North-South system – Acrol with Multi 2♦

East-West system – 3 weak 2s, 12-14 NT

## Form of Scoring: MPs

**Result at table:** 5♠x – 3 by South (-500). Lead ♦A

**Director first called:** At the end of auction.

## Director's statement of facts:

I was called to the table by North at the end of the auction to reserve his rights following West's bid over East's hesitation. After being advised to play the hand, I was called back. East agreed he hesitated but was thinking of doubling to stop his partner pulling to 5♦. West pulled to 5♦ because he felt he had no defence against a game in either major.

**Director's ruling:** 80% of 4♠ + 1 by North (+450) and 20% of 4♠ - 2 by North (-100)

## Details of ruling:

South fully accepts he badly mis-declared in 5♠x as he felt 'flustered'. I have weighted my ruling to allow him to make 4♠ the majority of the time (it is cold for 11 tricks) and to acknowledge his misplay. I polled 3 other TDs and pass was clearly felt to be a logical alternative to bidding 5♦, especially given the unfavourable vulnerability.

## Note by editor:

**Appeal lodged by:** East/West

**Basis of appeal:** unhappy with the adjusted score.

## Director's comments:

## APPEAL No : 15.021

**Comments by North-South:** We think the decision to adjust correct as UI influenced the 5♦ bid. The decision to adjust to 80% of 4♠+1, 20% of 4♠-2 is a reasonable compromise as we believe 4♠+1 is correct. Partner's poor play resulted from being flustered and hurried to meet time and movement.

**Comments by East-West:** At the time declarer played the hand, the only thing that had happened was his partner reserving his rights. He then played the hand badly. If every time rights were reserved and a player played badly, we would have a very strange competition.

NS voluntarily bid to 5♠ over my partner's 5♦, they could have just as easily doubled or passed.

As East I had a legitimate reason to think. My partner, if at all, wrongly interpreted my thinking and bid solely on his own hand.

### Appeals Committee decision:

Director's ruling stands.  
Deposit returned

### Appeals Committee's comments:

Due to the TD call, South had to declare 5♠x after the move had been called. We agree with the TD that South would probably have worked out to not play a 3<sup>rd</sup> round of trumps without the infraction causing the TD call.

Weighting reasonable but possibly slightly generous to declarer. Appeals Committees not advised to make small adjustments to TD's weightings. We gave lengthy consideration, so the deposit was returned.

**L&E Comment:** None

15.021

JA: No Further Comment

HD: I agree that the 5♦ bid should be cancelled as pass is a logical alternative, and partner's hesitation suggests bidding on. However, I do think that declarer's misplaying of the hand should be penalized in the score, and agree with East-West's first comment. Therefore I would have given significantly more weight to 4♠-2.

RJF: No comment

PL: I broadly agree, but would not have given any % of 4♠-2. Without the infraction, South would have enough time to declare the hand.

TR: This looks about right – the TD and AC have tried to determine what would have happened in 4♠, without the infraction and subsequent director call.

AW: Did West have UI? Yes. Was pass a LA? Seems clear to me. Did the UI suggest bidding on? I suppose it might have been because East was thinking of doubling or bidding on, but in either case it suggested doing something other than passing. So the TD and AC seem clearly right to me, and EW were perhaps a little fortunate not to lose their deposit.

# APPEAL No : 15.022

**Tournament Director:** David Stevenson

**Appeals Committee:** Jeffrey Allerton (C), Ian Payn, Brian Callaghan

<p>♠ - ♥ AK109843 ♦ 52 ♣ 8743</p> <p>♠ Q84                      ♠ K1073 ♥ QJ                              ♥ 2 ♦ K1097                      ♦ AQJ843 ♣ AJ62                      ♣ Q5</p> <p>♠ AJ9652 ♥ 765 ♦ 6 ♣ K109</p>	<p>Board 14 : Dealer East : Love all</p> <table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♦</td><td>2♠</td></tr><tr><td>3♠ (A)</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass (H)</td><td></td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			1♦	2♠	3♠ (A)	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass (H)		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>														
		1♦	2♠														
3♠ (A)	Pass	3NT	Pass														
Pass	Pass (H)																

## Basic systems:

North-South system – Acol style

East-West system – 5 card majors, weak NT

**Form of Scoring:** MP Pairs

**Result at table:** 3NT – 4 by E (+400), lead ♥6

**Director first called:** At the end of hand.

## Director's statement of facts:

East/West suggested the opening lead may have been affected by the long argued hesitation before the final pass. Double of 3♠ would have asked for a spade lead.

Double of the final contract: no specific agreement NS but in view of the lack of double of 3♠ presumably looking for a non-spade lead.

## Director's ruling:

3NT = by E on a spade lead.

## Details of ruling:

Having consulted, it is the general opinion that a hesitation is probably because of considering double which suggests a non-spade lead. Thus, all non-spade leads are illegal.

The number of tricks in 3NT was based on a survey of scores at other tables. At the time of checking 100% of declarer's in 3NT with a spade lead made nine tricks.

## Note by editor:

**Appeal lodged by:** North/South

## Basis of appeal:

100% of 3NT making is wrong.

## APPEAL No : 15.022

### Director's comments:

#### Comments by North-South: None

After ruling given, North commented he was thinking of bidding 4♥, not doubling.

#### Comments by East-West: None

After ruling given, EW commented that since 5♦ was cold, playing 3NT for one off was futile so the club finesse was automatic.

### Appeals Committee decision:

Director's ruling stands.

Deposit returned

### Appeals Committee's comments:

Well explained case by the TD. Working through logic, after discussion we find his ruling to be entirely reasonable.

### L&E Comment: None

15.022

JA: No Further Comment

HD: I agree.

RJF: Why was the deposit returned?

PL: It makes no difference whether North was thinking of doubling or bidding 4♥, he was thinking of doing something and that suggests a heart or a club over the LA of a spade. I agree with the AC.

TR: A pretty blatant use of UI. Perhaps not in the territory of a PP, but certainly should have lost their deposit.

AW: It does seem likely that North was considering an action that would make a spade lead less attractive, as the TD's consultations also suggest, so the ruling is automatic, even if it seems a bit harsh to NS.

# APPEAL No : 15.025

**Tournament Director:** Phil Godfrey

**Appeals Committee:** Nick Woolven (C), John Holland, Jeremy Willans

<p>♠ 8 ♥ 86542 ♦ AQ963 ♣ Q7</p> <p>♠ KQ52                      ♠ 9764 ♥ AK97                      ♥ Q ♦ J7                              ♦ 4 ♣ J85                          ♣ AK109643</p> <p>♠ AJ103 ♥ J103 ♦ K10852 ♣ 2</p>	<p>Board 36 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><thead><tr><th><b>West</b></th><th><b>North</b></th><th><b>East</b></th><th><b>South</b></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♠ (1)</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2NT (2)</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♦ (3)</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass (4)</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>1) Alerted as clubs 2) No fit 3) Not alerted 4) Asked questions about whole auction before pass as 'something seemed wrong'.</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	1NT	Pass	2♠ (1)	Pass	2NT (2)	Pass	3♦ (3)	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass (4)
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>														
1NT	Pass	2♠ (1)	Pass														
2NT (2)	Pass	3♦ (3)	Pass														
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass (4)														

## Basic systems:

North-South system – not recorded

East-West system – not recorded

**Form of Scoring:** IMPs to VPs, MPs, MPs to VPs, XIMPs

**Result at table:** 3NT = by West (-600)

**Director first called:** At the end of hand.

## Director's statement of facts:

South called as West was unsure about 3♦ during the auction but didn't want to press during questioning as may damage his side. He would have doubled had it been alerted for lead.

West said 3♦ was 'conventional' but didn't know if it showed a shortage.

East/West admitted that either or both may forget the system.

## Director's ruling:

3NT – 2 by West (+200)

## Details of ruling:

East should have corrected the explanation before the lead. If North is in possession of the information, she would have led a diamond (Law 20F5 (b)(ii))

## Note by editor:

**Appeal lodged by:** East/West

## Basis of appeal:

**Director's comments:**



## APPEAL No : 15.025

Comments by North-South: None

Comments by East-West: None

### Appeals Committee decision:

Director's ruling stands.  
Deposit returned

### Appeals Committee's comments:

East should have given an explanation of the 3♦ bid before the lead.

We were very close to retaining the deposit but felt that there was enough confusion in the auction to warrant its return and that North may not have led a diamond anyway. No knowledge of the system is not a defence for later on.

L&E Comment: None

15.025

JA: There were two separate infractions here: firstly, West's failure to alert 3♦; secondly East's failure to correct the explanation (i.e. explain that 3♦ should have been alerted).

If we had only the first infraction to worry about, we would need to consider (i) would South have doubled a conventional 3♦ and, if not, (ii) would North had led a diamond anyway? The answer to the second question is not so clear if West is "marked" with the diamond king.

However, the damage is more obvious when we consider the second infraction. If East had corrected the failure to alert, North would know that both East had diamond shortage and West had bid 3NT opposite presumed diamond length. Therefore, I agree with the TD/AC decision to rule based on a diamond lead being found 100% of the time.

HD: Seems fairly straight-forward. East should have corrected the explanation. I would have expected the deposit to have been forfeited.

RJF: No comment

PL: I would have retained the deposit and also given West a PP for breach of 20F4(a): If a player realizes during the auction that his own explanation was erroneous or incomplete, he must summon the Director before the end of the Clarification Period and correct the misexplanation. Note the "must" which means that a PP is almost automatic.

TR: Many players don't realise that it's their responsibility as the declaring side to correct any MI that occurred during the auction. That includes failures to alert.

AW: Yes, the only question really seems to be whether to retain the deposit – upholding the ruling looks clear.

# APPEAL No : 15.026

**Tournament Director:** John Haslegrave

**Appeals Committee:** Frances Hinden (C), David Price, Alan Mould

<p>♠ 1042 ♥ KQ86 ♦ A85 ♣ A84</p> <p>♠ 9 ♥ A ♦ J107643 ♣ KJ953</p> <p>♠ AK86 ♥ 109752 ♦ KQ2 ♣ 10</p> <p>♠ QJ753 ♥ J43 ♦ 9 ♣ Q762</p>	<p>Board 9 : Dealer North : EW vulnerable</p> <table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td></td><td>1♣ (1)</td><td>Dbl</td><td>1♠</td></tr><tr><td>2♦ (A2)</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♦</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>5♦</td><td>Dbl</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table> <p>1) May be two 2) Alerted, asked and explained as transfer to hearts (correct according to system)</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		1♣ (1)	Dbl	1♠	2♦ (A2)	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass	5♦	Dbl	All Pass	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																		
	1♣ (1)	Dbl	1♠																		
2♦ (A2)	Pass	3♥	Pass																		
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass																		
5♦	Dbl	All Pass																			

## Basic systems:

North-South system – not recorded

East-West system – not recorded

**Form of Scoring:** hybrid (point-a-board + aggregate IMPs)

**Result at table:** 5♦ x = by West (-750)

**Director first called:** At the end of the auction

## Director's statement of facts:

I was called back at the end of play. I asked about the meaning of (1♣) double (1♠) 2♣ (which shows diamonds) 3♥, and was told 'long hearts + forcing'. Subsequently (end of the next round) this was corrected to 'natural-ish, but diamond support since 2♥ would be forcing'.

North said he would pass if 4♥ was passed round to him.

## Director's ruling:

4♥ - 4 by East (+400)

## Details of ruling:

West has UI that East thinks he is supporting West's hearts. We felt that from West's perspective when East bids hearts again it is likely he has long hearts and pass is a logical alternative (Laws 16B, 73C, Blue Book 2D8).

## Note by editor:

**Appeal lodged by:** East/West

## Basis of appeal:

## Director's comments:

## APPEAL No : 15.026

**Comments by North-South:** None

**Comments by East-West:** None

### Appeals Committee decision:

Director's ruling stands.  
Deposit returned

### Appeals Committee's comments:

If EW were better players we would keep the deposit. We think West does not completely understand his obligations, but EW seem to be inventing system; or if not West has a clear slam move (we would not have objected to an adjustment to  $6♦x - 1$ ). We spent time discussing if the defence was a serious error but decided not.

(Editor's note: West is a Life Master, East is a Grand Master)

**L&E Comment:** None

15.026

JA: The TD/AC ruling looks very sensible to me, although there is a case for a weighted ruling assuming that North would double  $4♥$  some of the time (neither East nor West would have any legal reason to remove this).

I infer from the form of scoring that the players were representing their county. On this basis, I think that the AC ought to have assumed that the players were experienced even if they did not recognise them.

HD: Again I think the deposit should be kept. They are experienced players judging by their rank, and they choose to play complicated methods. There is an onus on them to know and explain it properly.

RJF: The AC comments taken together with the Editor's note constitutes a sad indictment of the master point system.

PL: I would have retained this deposit. The quality of player is not so important; their experience is and the editor clarifies they were very experienced. Frances is not usually this generous!

TR: No Comment

AW: Perhaps the TD could have considered a penalty for use of UI as well as an adjusted score – how many times is the diamond suit really worth repeating if partner understands the first time?

# APPEAL No : 15.032

**Tournament Director:** Matt Johnson

**Appeals Committee:** Paul Hackett (C), David Price, Celia Oram

<p>♠ AK5 ♥ Q4 ♦ KQ8743 ♣ 106</p> <p>♠ 8764                      ♠ Q93 ♥ AK875                    ♥ J9632 ♦ A9                                 ♦ - ♣ Q9                                ♣ AKJ43</p> <p>♠ J102 ♥ 10 ♦ J10652 ♣ 8752</p>	<p>Board 34 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</p> <table><thead><tr><th><b>West</b></th><th><b>North</b></th><th><b>East</b></th><th><b>South</b></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2NT</td><td>3♦</td><td>4♣</td><td>4♦</td></tr><tr><td>4NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♦</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>6♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></tbody></table> <p>2NT = GF Jacoby 4♣ = forward going trial 5♦ = 0 or 3 key cards 6♥ = curious</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			1♥	Pass	2NT	3♦	4♣	4♦	4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥	All Pass		
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
		1♥	Pass																		
2NT	3♦	4♣	4♦																		
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass																		
6♥	All Pass																				

## Basic systems:

North-South system – Standard American  
East-West system – 1430 Blackwood

**Form of Scoring:** IMPs to VPs

**Result at table:** 6♥ = by East (-980)

**Director first called:** After the play.

## Director's statement of facts:

South asked about 5♦ after the lead and was told East has 0 or 3 (confirmed by system card). West's 6♥ seems more consistent with the misbid than the system. (3 would be impossible so 0 leads to only 11 tricks). Misbid looks fielded.

## Director's ruling:

Fielded misbid - 6♥ consistent with actual hand, not 5♥ bid (Law 40C1).  
Adjusted score: NS 60%, EW 40%

## Details of ruling:

## Note by editor:

*This was the last occasion where a fielded misbid was treated in this way. The EBU regulation was changed on August 1<sup>st</sup> 2015.*

**Appeal lodged by:** East/West

**Basis of appeal:**

**Director's comments:**

**Comments by North-South:** None

## APPEAL No : 15.032

**Comments by East-West:** None

### Appeals Committee decision:

Director's ruling amended.  
Deposit returned

### Appeals Committee's comments:

There has been no suggestion that there was any impropriety at the table such as a hesitation and West is entitled to take a view (which might lead to a minus score on a spade lead).

Table result restored.

**L&E Comment:** None

15.032

JA: There is something missing from the write-up here. The TD and/or the AC should have asked West why he bid slam over the 5♦ response; the answer should have been recorded and follow-up questions asked if appropriate. For example, it might have transpired that there was some sort of UI; it would not surprise me if there had been some 'table action' as East decided whether he could show his void. If there had been UI, then the TD should just rule as a standard UI case.

HD: I agree with the AC. It seems curious, but appears to be an innocent mistake that got lucky.

RJF: No comment

PL: The illegal fielded misbid rule has correctly been scrapped. It breaches 40A3: A player may make any call or play without prior announcement provided that such call or play is not based on an undisclosed partnership understanding. From West's point of view his partner was including a void as an ace and was unsure how to do that. No adjustment nowadays and probably the AC should have recommended to the TD that he review his ruling. North should have doubled, saying "don't lead a diamond", but failure to do so was no remotely SEWoG.

TR: Since this was prior to the regulation change in August 2015, the fielded misbid ruling by the TD was correct and the AC was wrong to overturn it. But with the current misbid guidance, they'd be right to see if there was UI following East's 5♦, and if not to let the score stand.

AW: A slightly curious AC ruling. It is true that there does not appear to be any UI. It is also true that any suggestion of MI if the "fielding" suggests a different actual agreement from the one on paper does not appear to have damaged MS. Nevertheless, the write-up implies that the TD's ruling was in line with the regulations in force at the time.

# APPEAL No : 15.035

**Tournament Director:** Kathy Williams

**Appeals Committee:** Neil Rosen (C), Jason Hackett, Ian Payn

<p>♠ Q ♥ A1065 ♦ Q76 ♣ AK643</p> <p>♠ 865                      ♠ KJ10973 ♥ KJ8743                  ♥ Q2 ♦ A9                         ♦ K108 ♣ Q5                        ♣ 97</p> <p>♠ A42 ♥ 9 ♦ J5432 ♣ J1082</p>	<p>Board 21 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</p> <table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td></td><td>1♣ (1)</td><td>2♠ (2)</td><td>2NT (3)</td></tr><tr><td>4♠</td><td>5♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass (4)</td></tr><tr><td>5♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♠</td><td>Dbl</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">All Pass</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>(1) 5 card majors, could be 2 card suit (2) Weak (3) Minors, not alerted (4) TD called after pass but before West bid and correct explanation of 2NT given by North</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		1♣ (1)	2♠ (2)	2NT (3)	4♠	5♣	Pass	Pass (4)	5♥	Pass	5♠	Dbl	All Pass			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																		
	1♣ (1)	2♠ (2)	2NT (3)																		
4♠	5♣	Pass	Pass (4)																		
5♥	Pass	5♠	Dbl																		
All Pass																					

## Basic systems:

North-South system – 5 card majors

East-West system – not recorded

**Form of Scoring:** IMPs to VPs

**Result at table:** 5♠x – 3 by East, +500

**Director first called:** before West bid 5♥

## Director's statement of facts:

I was called by EW after South's pass and before West bid 5♥. The 2NT bid had not been alerted and when questioned EW were told it showed minors. I told West he now had the correct information but that I would stay and write down the auction. I was called again at the end of play by EW. West told me that had he known 2NT showed the minors he would have bid 3♥ and not 4♠. North said she would always bid 5♣ and EW said they would pass.

## Director's ruling:

Table result stands.

## Details of ruling:

Although West said he would have bid 3♥ if 2NT had been alerted, he had the correct explanation before he bid 5♥ and still made the bid not wanting to defend 5♣.

## Note by editor:

**Appeal lodged by:** East/West

**Basis of appeal:** unalerted bid (2NT)

**Director's comments:**

## APPEAL No : 15.035

Comments by North-South: None

Comments by East-West: None

### Appeals Committee decision:

Director's ruling stands.  
Deposit returned

### Appeals Committee's comments:

The decision to bid 5♥ was very poor. Either to bid 3♥ then bid 4♠, or bid 4♠ then pass was infinitely better.

We decided to return the deposit by a 2-1 verdict. We considered long and hard but felt the failure to alert the 2NT by South was just enough to warrant EW having a small case.

L&E Comment: None

15.035

JA: I agree with the 'no adjustment' ruling but I don't see the need for the AC to explain their bridge judgement over the 5♥ bid, which was not relevant to the ruling as the bid was made when the player had full information about the opponents' methods.

HD: I don't think EW have much of a case. It seems unclear to me why bidding 3♥ is more attractive given one explanation and 4♠ given the other.

RJF: No comment

PL: Nothing to add.

TR: I don't think is anywhere near as clearcut as the TD and AC have suggested. Yes, 5♥ was poorly judged, but if we believe West that he would have bid 3♥ with the correct explanation of 2NT, then he wouldn't be in this position. We can take his table actions into account when deciding on what might have happened, and it might be reasonable to conclude that a player who bid like this wouldn't have bid 3♥, or if he did, might have bid on anyway, but I think a small percentage of 5♣ could have been included in the ruling. I would only consider a retention of the deposit if at the hearing West appeared to be making a spurious case for an adjustment, which will depend on what he said.

AW: I don't understand why the AC feel the need to give West a bidding lesson. But if they think it was better to bid 3♥ and then 4♠, which West appears to agree with, then surely they need to consider whether West's failure to bid 3♥ was affected by the MI which West clearly had at the time he could have done this. (Perhaps they did consider this and felt that the situation West faced was not materially different from the one he should have faced, but the write-up certainly doesn't make this clear.)

# APPEAL No : 15.036

**Tournament Director:** Jim Proctor

**Appeals Committee:** Michael Byrne (C), Tom Slater, Chris Cooper

<p>♠ K9854 ♥ A53 ♦ A6 ♣ Q96</p> <p>♠ 102                      ♠ Q76 ♥ Q1072                    ♥ 4 ♦ 1074                      ♦ KQJ8532 ♣ J1087                    ♣ K5</p> <p>♠ AJ3 ♥ KJ986 ♦ 9 ♣ A432</p>	<p>Board 17 : Dealer North : Love all</p> <table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>2♦ (A1)</td><td>3NT (2)</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>All Pass</p> <p>(A1) alerted (2) South asked about 2♦ and West replied 'single suited major'.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		1NT	2♦ (A1)	3NT (2)
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>						
	1NT	2♦ (A1)	3NT (2)						

## Basic systems:

North-South system – not recorded

East-West system – not recorded

## Form of Scoring: IMPs

**Result at table:** 3NT – 2 by North; -100

**Director first called:** At the end of hand.

## Director's statement of facts:

I ascertained from EW that they had agreed to play 'Multi Landy' as defence to 1NT with no further discussion about what Multi Landy was. East thought 2♦ meant any single suiter, West thought as stated above.

I asked South what she would have called if told 'Multi Landy' or 'no agreement about what Multi Landy was' and after some thought she said she would probably double. NS said they play Lebensohl.

## Director's ruling:

I ruled misinformation and gave a weighted adjusted score

50% of 4♠ = by North + 50% of 4♥ - 1 by South.

(Laws 40B4, 12C1)

## Details of ruling:

## Note by editor:

**Appeal lodged by:** East/West

**Basis of appeal:** Misbid, not misinformation.



## APPEAL No : 15.036

**Director's comments:**

**Comments by North-South:** None

**Comments by East-West:** None

**Appeals Committee decision:**

Director's ruling stands.  
Deposit returned

**Appeals Committee's comments:**

EW clearly had different understandings of the convention and East stated she played 2 ♦ as a single suiter with other partners. Therefore it was not a misbid.

We felt the 2 ♦ bid could not be described as a misbid, it was made with the intention of a single suited hand. Therefore NS were damaged. The TDs ruling of 50% -50 and 50% +420 was based on frequencies and thus accurate.

**L&E Comment:** None

15.036

JA: It seems to me that the correct explanation should have been: "We've agreed to play Multi-Landy but have not discussed what that term means." In order to support his ruling, the TD should have explained how the bidding might have gone to arrive at the two contracts included in his weighting.

HD: I agree with the AC and TD.

RJF: No comment

PL: Agree with the AC.

TR: It was going so well until the last sentence of the AC's comment. The results at the other tables are irrelevant – the job of the TD and AC is to determine possible auctions at the table in question and assign probabilities to those.

AW: I agree with the AC (and TD) that 2 ♦ cannot be treated simply as a misbid, even if that is what it appears to be from West's perspective. Good ruling.

# APPEAL No : 15.037

**Tournament Director:** Kathy Williams

**Appeals Committee:** Brian Senior (C), Neil Rosen, Paul Lamford

<p>♠ Q73 ♥ Q742 ♦ J74 ♣ A97</p> <p>♠ A10862      ♠ J ♥ -              ♥ J108 ♦ KQ1093      ♦ A82 ♣ KJ6           ♣ Q108532</p> <p>♠ K954 ♥ AK9653 ♦ 65 ♣ 4</p>	<p>Board 28 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>2♥</td></tr><tr><td>3♦</td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass (1)</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♦</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></tbody></table> <p>(1) Hesitation – not agreed.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	1♠	Pass	1NT	2♥	3♦	3♥	Pass (1)	Pass	4♦	All Pass		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>														
1♠	Pass	1NT	2♥														
3♦	3♥	Pass (1)	Pass														
4♦	All Pass																

**Basic systems:**

North-South system – not recorded

East-West system – not recorded

**Form of Scoring:** IMPs to VPs

**Result at table:** 4♦ + 1 by West; -150

**Director first called:** At the end of auction.

**Director's statement of facts:**

NS called me to report a hesitation and pass by East. East said he always bid slowly and had nothing to think about. When I went back to give my ruling there was abuse from East towards me and South to the extent of calling me a liar.

**Director's ruling:**

There was a hesitation and pass by West is a logical alternative. Ruled back to 3♥ - 1 by South. (Law 16B)

**Details of ruling:**

**Note by editor:**

**Appeal lodged by:** East/West

**Basis of appeal:**

4♦ bid not suggested by the hesitation.

**Director's comments:**

**Comments by North-South:** None

## APPEAL No : 15.037

**Comments by East-West:** None

### Appeals Committee decision:

Director's ruling stands.  
Deposit forfeited

### Appeals Committee's comments:

We confirm the change of contract back to 3♥ by South. However, we alter the ruling regarding tricks to 3♥ = , +140

We have no compelling evidence to disagree with the TDs judgement that there was a break in tempo. We agree that pass is a logical alternative, hence there was UI which suggested further action on the West hand.

The defence to beat 3♥ is tough and was missed by very many pairs, so we give declarer the benefit of the doubt and she is awarded her contract 100% of the time – though no doubt we could have given a small percentage to the defence.

**L&E Comment:** None

15.037

JA: I agree with the AC. When considering how many tricks might be made in hearts, it looks as though the TD might have consulted Deep Finesse, whereas the AC have looked in more detail as to how the play would have gone. In the past, I've seen ACs saying that they could not keep the deposit if they changed the TD's ruling in any way. This is not true; it is the basis of appeal which is relevant, as shown in the present case.

HD: I agree with the AC and agree with keeping the deposit. Pass is a logical alternative, and bidding is suggested by the UI. I trust East was fined for the abuse.

RJF: No comment

PL: Agree with the AC. The defence are unlikely to find two spade ruffs.

TR: The TD and AC look to have made the correct ruling. Hopefully, the rudeness from East was dealt with separately.

AW: The TD is clearly best-placed to make the initial ruling of fact about the break in tempo, and the rest follows from this. I hope this ruling wasn't just based on East's rudeness – a BB@B penalty might have been more appropriate for that. Just looking at the hand does suggest that there might be something in East's statement that he didn't have a lot to think about.

# APPEAL No : 15.038

**Tournament Director:** Robin Barker

**Appeals Committee:** Malcolm Pryor (C), Kath Nelson, Simon Cope

<p>♠ A6 ♥ 953 ♦ 63 ♣ AQ9876</p> <p>♠ 1083                      ♠ KQJ97542 ♥ AJ                              ♥ 10 ♦ KQ8542                      ♦ A9 ♣ J4                                ♣ 103</p> <p>♠ - ♥ KQ87642 ♦ J107 ♣ K52</p>	<p>Board 23 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</p> <table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>2♦</td><td>3♥(1)</td><td>3♠</td><td>4♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Dbf (2)</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♥</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></tbody></table> <p>(1) 3♥ = approx 9 to 11 (2) Agreed slow</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				1♥	2♦	3♥(1)	3♠	4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbf (2)	Pass	5♥	All Pass			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																						
			1♥																						
2♦	3♥(1)	3♠	4♥																						
Pass	Pass	4♠	Pass																						
Pass	Dbf (2)	Pass	5♥																						
All Pass																									

## Basic systems:

North-South system – 4 card majors

East-West system – not recorded

**Form of Scoring:** IMPs to VPs

**Result at table:** 5♥ - 1 by South; -100

**Director first called:** At the end of hand.

## Director's statement of facts:

I was given the auction, as above: the double by North was agreed slow at the end of the auction.

EW were concerned about the 5♥ bid.

I asked South why she bid 5♥: I had lots of hearts and no defence to spades.

## Director's ruling:

Result changed to 4♠x = by East; -790

## Details of ruling:

Passing of North's penalty double is a logical alternative for South.

(I consulted 3 other TDS – all of whom passed as South)

Laws 16B, 12C

## Note by editor:

**Appeal lodged by:** North/South

## Basis of appeal:

**Director's comments:** Careless defence might concede an overtrick in 4♠x.

## APPEAL No : 15.038

Comments by North-South: None

Comments by East-West: None

### Appeals Committee decision:

Director's ruling stands.

Deposit returned

### Appeals Committee's comments:

TDs ruling upheld.

- 1) If South was convinced 4♠ would make we felt she would already have bid 5♥ on the previous round.
- 2) We felt it was perfectly possible on the explanation of the NS methods that in their system N could have had four spades as well as four hearts.
- 3) We felt that a proportion (sufficiently large) of those South players that initially passed over 4♠ would also pass North's double.
- 4) We spent long enough considering the appeal to fully merit the return of the deposit.
- 5) We felt that NS would get their three tricks close to 100% of the time in 4♠x and therefore did not weight the score between 790 and 990 (or even 1190) - ♣A cashed when in with the ♠A and an attitude signal from South, ♣K before trying a second heart looks trivial at any level from intermediate up.

L&E Comment: None

15.038

JA: I agree with the TD and AC. It is good to see the AC explaining their reasoning in good detail.

HD: I don't agree with all of this. Firstly I think it is unattractive to defend 4♠ with the South cards. The hand does not have the defence expected of a one level opening, it looks more like a 3♥ opening to me at this vulnerability. I suppose South might have bid 5♥ instead of passing, but I wouldn't fancy standing a double of 4♠ having bid as I have.

Also I don't agree that the defence to hold 5♥ to 10 tricks will be found close to 100% of the time. Is it obvious, on a top heart lead, to rise with the ace of trumps on the first round? This is what is required to take 3 tricks.

RJF: I would have awarded N/S part of 990 and part of 1190.

PL: Nothing to say

TR: This deposit really should have been kept. Passing then removing partner's penalty double is usually illogical, so doing it when partner's made a slow double is not acceptable.

The AC often asks itself the wrong question: would we have bid over 4♠? That is irrelevant; this player didn't.

AW: It is rare that passing a penalty double is not a LA, and this hand proves the point, with enough people choosing to pass that South cannot make a different choice after UI suggests partner would be happy for him to do so.

# APPEAL No : 15.039

**Tournament Director:** Stuart Davies

**Appeals Committee:** Malcolm Pryor (C), Jeff Smith, Gunnar Hallberg

<p>♠ K8765 ♥ 102 ♦ 6 ♣ AK653</p> <p>♠ AJ4                      ♠ Q103 ♥ AJ9                      ♥ KQ863 ♦ AQ107                  ♦ 42 ♣ 1074                      ♣ Q92</p> <p>♠ 92 ♥ 754 ♦ KJ9853 ♣ J8</p>	<p>Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable</p> <table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1♦</td><td>1♠</td><td>Dbl</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣ (1)</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♥</td><td>Dbl</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table> <p>(1) Intended as check back. Not alerted.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	1♦	1♠	Dbl	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣ (1)	Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	Dbl	All Pass	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																		
1♦	1♠	Dbl	Pass																		
1NT	Pass	2♣ (1)	Pass																		
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass																		
4♥	Dbl	All Pass																			

## Basic systems:

North-South system – not recorded

East-West system – not recorded

**Form of Scoring:** IMPs (KO teams)

**Result at table:** 4♥x = by East; -590. Lead ♦8.

**Director first called:** not recorded

## Director's statement of facts:

Failure to alert mentioned at end of auction. South's final pass withdrawn and re-instated. West thought checkback didn't apply after intervention and raised to 3♣ believing partner was 4♥ and 5♣. North doubled 4♥ because he believed he could give partner a club ruff. (It occurs to me that he may have thought he was on lead – this is refuted.)

South took the double as asking for an unusual lead hence didn't lead ♠9 as he would have done without the double. On the diamond lead, declarer played the 10 leading to ten tricks with no further problem.

## Director's ruling:

4♥ = by East; -420.

## Details of ruling:

The double of 4♥ is cancelled as he would not double as a club ruff is no longer likely (although it does happen to be available).

Declarer assures me she would rise with ♠A and play the same way. I have concluded that the diamond finesse of the 10 is the best technical line rather than trying for a club trick. (♦K must be right to give declarer a chance.) In fact if declarer does try for a club trick, North may well rise.

## Note by editor:

## APPEAL No : 15.039

**Appeal lodged by:** North/South

**Basis of appeal:** That 4♥ will not always make. It went down at the other table.

**Director's comments:**

**Comments by North-South:** None

**Comments by East-West:** None

**Appeals Committee decision:**

Director's ruling amended.  
Deposit returned

**Appeals Committee's comments:**

We felt a weighted ruling was appropriate here and perhaps would have been the preferred approach.

4♥ = by East 70% of the time; 4♥ - 1 by East 30% of the time.

There was a lot to look at here and we spent a long time going through everything

- 1) We were aware obviously of the UI in the auction but felt 4♥ would be reached anyway; however the UI potentially led to an auction where declarer gained info she was not entitled to regarding opponents cards.
- 2) We accepted North's statement that he would not have doubled if armed with the correct understanding of opponents methods.
- 3) We accepted South's statement that he would have led the routine doubleton spade without North's misinformed double; we also felt the declarer play might be different in an undoubled 4♥ contract rather than a doubled one.
- 4) On a spade lead declarer has to assume ♦K is correct for the contract and needs in addition to either finesse for ♦J or for ♣J; 5-2 spades argues both in favour of finessing for ♦J and against the club finesse. Plus some of the time declarer gets it wrong. North must risk club and give the same away. However it is possible that declarer would not read the layout some of the time and we spent quite a lot of our final moments in appeal working out what value to give 'some of the time'. Of course a club lead does defeat the contract but we ascribed zero chance of that based on South's comments and you could also argue that giving declarer 10 tricks only 70% of the time offsets that anyway.

**L&E Comment:** None

## APPEAL No : 15.039

15.039

JA: Again, it is good to see the AC explaining their reasoning in good detail. One question for the TD/AC to consider is how East should react when West make the "impossible" 3♣ response to Checkback. Is this sufficient to wake East up to the fact that the bid has not been taken as Checkback? Or should East assume an imaginative response to Checkback has been made? 3NT would seem to be a logical alternative (West would pass this) and this contract would probably be defeated if North finds the eminently plausible low club lead at trick one.

HD: I agree with the weighted ruling given by the AC regarding whether the contract makes, however I remain unconvinced by North's reason for doubling the contract, and whether it asked for a club lead. If clubs have been bid and raised I would be more concerned that partner didn't have a club to lead at all. I think there is some case for North keeping his score.

RJF: No comment

PL: Good work by the AC

TR: Once it has been decided that North's double should be cancelled, the rest of the AC's conclusions (including the weighted score) follow on from that.

AW: Seems like a reasonable effort by the TD, improved by the AC.



# APPEAL No : 15.048

**Tournament Director:** David Jones

**Appeals Committee:** Malcolm Pryor (C), Ruth Edmondson, Gary Hyett

<p>♠ K4 ♥ AJ ♦ AKQ98542 ♣ 6</p> <p>♠ 10832      ♠ AQJ9 ♥ KQ98      ♥ 52 ♦ 3            ♦ J6 ♣ AQ84      ♣ K10972</p> <p>♠ 765 ♥ 107643 ♦ 107 ♣ J53</p>	<p>Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable</p> <table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1♣(1)</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1♥</td><td>3♣(2)</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Dbl</td><td>3♦</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table> <p>(1) At least 3 clubs (2) Not alerted – when West enquired no agreement but thought to be natural.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			1♣(1)	Pass	1♥	3♣(2)	Pass	Pass	Dbl	3♦	All Pass	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>														
		1♣(1)	Pass														
1♥	3♣(2)	Pass	Pass														
Dbl	3♦	All Pass															

## Basic systems:

North-South system – Acol

East-West system – Acol

**Form of Scoring:** IMPs to VPs

**Result at table:** 3♦ + 2 by North

**Director first called:** not recorded

## Director's statement of facts:

3♣ was intended as 'bid 3NT with a club stop'. If this is known by EW, West would pass some of the time and choose to bid at other times. West did in fact claim to pass all the time.

## Director's ruling:

We ruled under 'no partnership agreement' and weighted as 50/50 for bidding and passing. (75B)

## Details of ruling:

Weighted ruling of

50% 3♦ + 2 by North

50% of 3♣ - 7 by North

## Note by editor:

**Appeal lodged by:** North/South

**Basis of appeal:** Teammates wished to appeal.

**Director's comments:**

**Comments by North-South:** None

## **APPEAL No : 15.048**

**Comments by East-West:** None

### **Appeals Committee decision:**

Director's ruling amended.

70% 3♦ + 2 by North

30% of 3♣ - 7 by North

Deposit returned.

### **Appeals Committee's comments:**

We felt the ruling was too generous to East/West.

**L&E Comment:** None

## APPEAL No : 15.048

15.048

JA: I do not understand this ruling. The narration on the hand diagram is “no agreement but thought to be natural” but the last four words seem to be a description of South’s best guess of what the bid might mean, having already explained that there was no agreement. In essence, in response to West’s enquiry, the bid was described as “no agreement”. The TD found that the correct explanation was “no agreement”. So where was the misinformation?

South could not tell from his hand what the bid meant and guessed to pass. The regulation at the time required him to not alert a no agreement bid if he was going to take it as natural. He did. No infraction. The explanation he gave to West was entirely consistent with this.

Let’s look at West’s hand. He is playing Acol, a system in which 1♣ opening typically shows at least 4 of the suit (the narration says that it could be a 3-card suit but this is rare in standard Acol and there is no further description of the E/W methods in the basic system section). West himself holds ♣AQ84. It should be clear to West from his hand and his partner’s opening bid that North cannot possibly have a natural 3♣ overcall. The relevant Law here is Law 21A:

“Law 21A. Call Based on Caller’s Misunderstanding

No rectification or redress is due to a player who acts on the basis of his own misunderstanding.”

His decision to double 3♣ and then pass out 3♦ is what led to a bad score. So even if one were to regard “South’s additional comment as misinformation, West was not damaged by it.

So in my view there was no infraction and the table result should have been allowed to stand.

HD: I think that the TD gave a fair and reasonable ruling, and the basis given for appeal would cause me to consider forfeiting the deposit.

RJF: No comment

PL: I think West will pass almost all the time even if he is told “no agreement”. He is looking at a singleton diamond, so it is very likely North has intended 3♣ as a Western Cue Bid. I would give 70% of 3♣-7 and 30% of 3♦-2. If North does have clubs, then defending is fine.

TR: Was it really worth the AC changing the weighting by 20%? They’re not supposed to tweak the TD’s ruling.

AW: It would have been nice to see a bit more reasoning behind the AC’s change! The TD appears to have been happy to accept that NS had no agreement. It is hard to judge what West should do over that. If North’s understanding is closer to the actual agreement but South didn’t recognize the situation, then I suspect West would pass pretty much 100% of the time with the correct information.

# APPEAL No : 15.053

Tournament Director: Phil Godfrey

Appeals Committee: Tim Rees (C), Frances Hinden, David Burn

<p>♠ QJ10874 ♥ 75 ♦ 104 ♣ K32 ♠ 2 ♥ KQ106 ♦ KQJ63 ♣ Q108 ♠ K965 ♥ 432 ♦ 985 ♣ J75</p> <p>♠ A3 ♥ AJ98 ♦ A72 ♣ A964</p>	Board 12 : Dealer West : NS vulnerable			
	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
	1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
	2♥	2♠	3♠(A)	Dbl (A)
	Pass (1)	Pass	Rdbl	Pass
	4♦	Pass	4♥ (2)	Pass
	4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
	6♥	All Pass		
		(1) Shows interest		
		(2) Agreed slow		
		Screens in use		

## Basic systems:

North-South system – not recorded

East-West system – not recorded

Form of Scoring: IMPs to VPs

Result at table: 6♥ = by East, lead ♠8

Director first called: At the end of hand.

## Director's statement of facts:

North called me to express doubt of West's 4NT after a long pause. All facts about tempo and explanations agreed. NS suggest pass may be a logical alternative.

## Director's ruling:

A poll of several 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> division players found none who would pass although a couple considered it. Actions varied but all would lead to 6♥. I therefore ruled that pass was not a logical alternative. (16B1a, 16B1b).

## Details of ruling:

Table result stands.

## Note by editor:

Appeal lodged by: North/South

Basis of appeal: Pass is a logical alternative.

## Director's comments:

### Comments by North-South:

Firstly, despite the presence of screens, there is no doubt whatsoever that the hesitation behind the screen had come from East. This was agreed.

## APPEAL No : 15.053

We accept that West has quite a nice hand, however he has already had the opportunity to make TWO slam tries (i) the pass of 3♠x and (ii) the 4♦ bid.

Although West MIGHT well choose to move, he might not. The whole point is that with only one control and crucially no club control, even the 5-level might not be safe. East's slow 4♥ fundamentally affects this decision as the presence of a club control is now virtually guaranteed.

In essence this is exactly the same as the ruling versus Team X when A/B observed a slow 4♥ bid and the partner could now 'infer a crucial control' and take over with Blackwood.

So whilst West might, we repeat might have bid on, clearly they might not have – hence we believe pass to be a logical alternative.

### Comments by East-West:

It is inconceivable that East will not have a club control on this bidding. How could he be making a slam try opposite a minimum rebid without?

Would any player suggest a slam maybe on opposite a 2♥ rebid with ♠A, ♥A and ♦A alone? The redouble shows first round spade control. It is obvious to bid on and every player polled agreed!

Referring to the Polish hesitation of 6 minutes is not accurate. Yes, I did think for a minute but I had already made a slam try and when the hand was given to other players, they all moved to slam.

### Appeals Committee decision:

Director's ruling amended.

Deposit returned

### Appeals Committee's comments:

Facts: East made a slow 4♥ bid. West then bid on with 4NT (RKCB), reaching a making 6♥.

The TD ruled UI, but (having polled players) ruled that pass was not a Logical Alternative (LA) and that the table result should stand (Law 16B1). North/South have appealed.

Appeal Ruling: Adjusted score: 6♥= by E, N/S -980. Deposit returned.

Reasons: The slow 4♥ bid carried UI, primarily that East would have a club control. This information was not available from the auction itself. The action that West selected (4NT) was demonstrably suggested by the hesitation, over other LAs such as 4♠, so is disallowed.

The AC felt that if West bid 4♠, slam would then be reached. Therefore the crux of the matter was whether pass was an LA.

The AC first considered the technical issues relating to the auction. West has extra values for his actions so far, given that E/W play a strong NT and the opening bid could therefore have been a balanced hand. Over 4♥, the 5-level is very likely (but not certain) to be safe. Therefore, the AC felt that the majority of players would bid, but that the risk of doing so had been removed by the UI. A poll of players was appropriate.

Law 16B1b states: "A logical alternative action is one that, among the class of players in question and using the methods of the partnership, would be given serious consideration by a significant proportion of such players, of whom it is judged some might select it."

## APPEAL No : 15.053

The AC carried out its own poll of West's peers, and added it to the poll carried out by the TD. Of the 20 players polled, just under half considered passing, and one actually passed.

L&E Committee guidance from 2009 says:

*What is a "significant proportion"? The Laws do not specify a figure, but the TD should assume that it means at least one player in five. If a significant proportion of the player's peers would not consider the action, it is not an LA.*

*If a significant proportion would consider the action, then the TD should next decide whether some would actually choose it. Again the Laws do not specify a figure for "some", and the TD should assume that it means more than just an isolated exception. If no one or almost no one would choose the action having considered it, the action is not an LA.*

In this case, we have more than 1 in 5 considering pass, so it meets that criterion. However, given that only one player actually passed, the AC feels that this should be considered an "isolated exception". Therefore, pass is not deemed to be an LA.

Therefore, although the 4NT bid made at the table has been disallowed, an adjusted score of 6♥= (reached by another route to that at the table) is awarded.

**L&E Comment:** None

15.053

JA: I agree with the AC's ruling. Their discussion of what constitutes a logical alternative is interesting. They state:

"In this case, we have more than 1 in 5 considering pass, so it meets that criterion."

However, the criterion in question (as per the Law they quote) is whether the call would be given *serious* consideration by a significant proportion of such players; the AC seems to have overlooked that important word.

Although partially explained in the AC's comments, it would have been useful if the TD had recorded the E/W basic system in the relevant section of the appeals form. Here an understanding of what hands open 1♦ is important as it affects the upper strength of the 2♥ bid and the inferences available in the subsequent auction.

HD: Given the size of the poll and the results obtained from it, I would rule as the AC did, although I have misgivings.

RJF: I have a concern about polling players who have already played the hand. Those players will be aware that the slam is cold and may be unconsciously influenced into bidding on.

PL: Very good job, including polling, by the AC.

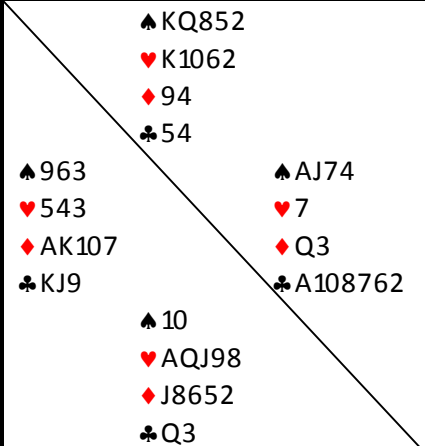
TR: No Comment

AW: The poll results support the rulings given. It seems to me a little odd that a player who has refused two opportunities to take control of the auction by bidding 4N should be allowed to do so now with no additional AI that supports such a move, only UI, and I guess the AC agree, but decided that even without West taking control of the auction EW would have got to the slam. Fair enough.

# APPEAL No : 15.055

Tournament Director: Mike Amos

Appeals Committee: Jeffrey Allerton (Referee)

	Board 11 : Dealer South : Love all																			
	<table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>3♦(1)</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Dbf</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♦</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></tbody></table>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>				1♥	Pass	3♦(1)	Pass	3♥	Pass	Pass	Dbf	Pass	4♦	All Pass	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																	
			1♥																	
Pass	3♦(1)	Pass	3♥																	
Pass	Pass	Dbf	Pass																	
4♦	All Pass																			
	(1) Heart raise four cards – see below for range																			
	Screens in use																			

## Basic systems:

North-South system – 5 card majors; Bergen type raises

East-West system – not recorded

Form of Scoring: IMPs to VPs

Result at table: 4♦ - 4 by West; +200 to NS; lead ♥6

Director first called: After round completed.

**Director's statement of facts:** I was called by EW who complained that they had received different explanations of 3♦ on the two sides of the screen and that this might have affected the outcome. North wrote on pad '8-11 4H' and South, asked about the point range of 3♦, wrote '6-9'. East said 'if it is 6-9, I'll bid 4♣ and if they bid again, I'll double. If I bid 4♣, partner will know what to do.'

West said 'I'll obviously bid 5♣'. I investigated EW's methods. I discovered that they did not have different methods according to the range of North's Bergen raise. I asked East why he did not bid 4♣ over 3♦ anyway. He said 'I wanted to keep spades in the game.' I asked about an immediate double of 3♦. He told me that this was takeout of hearts – including diamonds. I asked why he had doubled 3♥. He said that he had hoped his partner would work out that this was a takeout without diamonds.

I tried to investigate NS methods. Their methods lacked clarity. Their system card said 7-9 (10) implying 7-9 NV. Their system file said 8-10. I can only conclude that there was misinformation.

**Director's ruling:** Result stands.

**Details of ruling:** The TD did not conclude that EW were damaged by misinformation. East's actions were not a success, but the TD has not been given any argument which explains why he would have acted differently told 6-9 as South told West. The variation did not affect his methods. His partner passed 1♥ so was unlikely to have a huge spade fit. One advantage of defending Bergen raises is that a player in East's position can pass knowing that there will be a second opportunity to take action. EW were damaged because West did not understand East's actions. (Law 40B4)

## APPEAL No : 15.055

**Note by editor:**

**Appeal lodged by:** East/West

**Basis of appeal:** EW believe they have been damaged by misinformation.

**Director's comments:**

**Comments by North-South:** NS declined the opportunity to comment further.

**Comments by East-West:** Written by East: I was told and it was written down 3♦ = 8-10. If I had been told 6-9 I would have bid 4♣ as it must be a safer bid when opponents have as little as 6 points. Immediate double would be takeout with diamonds. Bidding 4♣ allows partner into the auction if they bid 4♥ or by judging to bid over the immediate 4♣. If I pass and they bid 4♥, I don't know if it is safe to bid. I considered bidding over the stronger bid explained to me and would certainly have bid over the stronger version.

**Appeals Committee decision:**

Director's ruling stands.  
Deposit forfeited

**Appeals Committee's comments:**

The TD had explained the ruling very well. EW had a difference of opinion as to the implications of East's bidding. However, this difference of opinion had nothing whatsoever to do with the misinformation (a slight difference in range of the 3♦ bid). EW have not advanced any reason why the TD's ruling might be incorrect. I consulted two other players and they both agree with my view that this appeal is without any merit and the deposit is retained.

I would like the L&E Committee to review its procedures for deterring frivolous appeals. If players were docked VPs as well as any financial deposit for appeals without merit, then such appeals would be discouraged.

**L&E Comment:**

The committee agrees with the referee's decision. The committee also took action on the referee's final point:

### 5.6 Frivolous appeals

There was discussion on how to cut down frivolous appeals. There had been a number in the recently completed Premier League and Senior Trials where sponsored teams had appealed rulings, completely without merit. The loss of the deposit was irrelevant in a number of cases and it was felt that the prospect of a more tangible penalty might deter such appeals.

It was proposed and seconded that the committee should consider a system to withhold some number of scoring units in addition to or instead of retaining the deposit. Carried *nem con*. Draft regulations for consideration would be put to the next meeting, with a view to implementing it for a season.



## **APPEAL No : 15.055**

15.055

JA: I have not changed my view on this appeal. I am pleased that the Laws & Ethics Committee considered my comments and took action which should discourage frivolous appeals of this nature in the future.

HD: I agree with the TD and referee.

RJF: No comment

PL: Nothing to add on any point.

TR: No Comment

AW: Seems faultlessly argued by the TD and the AC (referee).

# APPEAL No : 15.057

**Tournament Director:** Sarah Amos

**Appeals Committee:** Tim Rees (C), Frances Hinden, David Burn

<p>♠ 94 ♥ 109432 ♦ 9632 ♣ Q6</p> <p>♠ KJ7 ♥ AKQ ♦ J5 ♣ A10974</p> <p>♠ 8653 ♥ J8765 ♦ AK87 ♣ -</p>	<p>♠ AQ102 ♥ - ♦ Q104 ♣ KJ8532</p>	Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable			
		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
				Pass	
		1♦(1)	Pass	2♣(2)	Pass
		3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
		4♣	Pass	4♥	Pass
		4NT(3)	Pass	5♠	Pass
		6♣	All Pass		
		(1)	18-19 balanced or diamonds		
		(2)	Game forcing		
		(3)	Blackwood		
		Screens in use			

## Basic systems:

North-South system – not recorded

East-West system – 5 card majors; 15-17 NT

**Form of Scoring:** IMPs to VPs

**Result at table:** 6♣ + 1 by East; NS -1390; lead spade.

**Director first called:** At the end of match.

## Director's statement of facts:

South had asked West about the 3♥ and 4♥ bids and been told that they had no agreement but it was probably a 6-5 hand. South thought that East would therefore have at most one diamond and so leading a top diamond would allow the contract to make. South chose to lead a small spade. I asked East why he bid 3♥ and 4♥ and he said that he was showing controls. 4♥ direct would have been a splinter showing a singleton not a void.

## Director's ruling:

Score adjusted to 6♣ - 1; NS +100.

## Details of ruling:

If West had simply said 'no agreement' it is clear that South would have led a top diamond and continued the suit on seeing the dummy (Law 75B)

**Note by editor:**

**Appeal lodged by:** East/West

**Basis of appeal:**

## APPEAL No : 15.057

### Director's comments:

EW have not demonstrated agreement after 2♣ (GF) and 3♣ support. East's hand and West's explanation are clearly divergent.

### Comments by North-South:

**South:** During the auction when LHO bid 4♣ it became apparent that there was a potential slam auction and I asked LHO whether he has shown a balanced hand (18-19) or unbalanced with diamonds. LHO confirmed he could still have either. After the auction ended I asked LHO for an explanation of the bidding. He told me that as his partner had bid hearts twice he thought he had probably shown 5-6 in hearts and clubs although he did say it was a murky situation.

When I came to lead I wasn't sure how LHO could possibly link Blackwood knowing he was missing the ♦AK. My judgement was that LHO was a good player and most likely believed that his partner was 5-6 as otherwise bidding 4NT was wild. It was possible there was a misunderstanding but I couldn't tell. My thoughts were that for him to take such an action he must not only believe that his partner was 5-6 but also that he must have the hand type with long diamonds rather than the balanced option. That felt to me like the most likely explanation for the odd Blackwood call with two losers in the suit. From his perspective he must have felt his partner was odds against having a doubleton diamond so bidding Blackwood was reasonable. It seemed impossible to believe he thought his partner could not have a diamond control.

While deciding on my lead, I reasoned that a diamond lead could let the contract through if LHO had a long diamond suit headed by the queen and his partner void or if RHO had a singleton diamond and we had a slow trick in an outside suit which could be discarded (once diamonds were established). I did consider the possibility that they had simply had a misunderstanding and two diamonds were cashing. However I decided that the most likely source of misunderstanding was that they were short on values but RHO was still short in diamonds. In which case it may have been essential to establish a trick outside diamonds to maintain tempo. Spades became a reasonable choice of lead despite the attraction of a diamond lead. With an explanation of 'no agreement' it is a normal top diamond lead.

After my lead RHO claimed at trick one and I will admit I was stunned. I turned to express my astonishment to LHO who was sympathetic. I recall saying at this point maybe I should have led a diamond anyway assuming that my table analysis was wrong. As the match went on, I continued thinking about the hand to establish why my logic was awry. I realized that I had based my faulty premise upon LHO's statement that his partner was probably 5-6 and so called the TD at the opportune time when we had completed the set of boards.

**North:** When the board was played we were under time pressure and were down to 5.5 minutes a board. This was a good reason to delay the request for a ruling until the end of the set. I understand the rules, a delay in asking for a ruling doesn't prejudice our case.

Without West's suggestion that East was 5-6 then South would have surely led a diamond so it is West's fault for suggesting this was likely.

A poll amongst experts about the lead with no misinformation would probably suggest almost 100% a top diamond lead. The fact that South led a diamond suggests that South had received a lot of information from West to strongly dissuade the lead.

## APPEAL No : 15.057

**NS Captain:** Regarding East's third paragraph:

- If 4♥ shows 5-6, East's failure to cue-bid diamonds doesn't tell us anything about his diamond holding. 4♥ is presumably intended as a signoff. One would not expect East to bid 4♦ with a 1516 or 2506 shape that wants to sign off in 4♥.
- If the Appeals Committee believes it necessary to obtain the views of other players, they should conduct their own poll, or ask the TD to do so. No weight should be placed on a consultation carried out by one of the protagonists.
- The EBU's interpretation of the phrase 'wild or gambling' is explained in the White Book, section 8.12.5.2 (with additional examples in 4.1.1.3). Leading a non-diamond isn't close to meeting the conditions for a 'wild or gambling' action. (Similarly, it is plainly also neither a 'serious error' nor 'unrelated to the infraction', which terms are defined in 8.12.5.3 and 8.12.5.4).

### Comments by East-West:

**East:** 1. My partner told South that 3♥ was essentially natural in this auction, often fishing for the best game. This is normally true and I made a non-standard bid. After bidding and raising minor suits, (and generally in 2/1 GF auctions with no major fit) it is almost universal to play suits below 3NT as 'natural' / showing stops to help diagnose what the best game is. A jump to 4♥ here over 3♣ would have been a spliner. We have no express agreement about these auctions. However, what my partner said is consistent with the way we normally bid. My partner also told South that we had no specific agreement about 4♥ but made a suggestion based on his bridge knowledge and the structure of the rest of the system, i.e. that it was consistent with a 6-5 shape. South was free to make his own decision as to the meaning of the call. We did not have to demonstrate an agreement of 4♥ because we did not claim to have one. It would have been clear to South at this point that EW were on shaky ground and an obvious alternative potential interpretation of 4♥ is just a general cue bid (with length of course) after the 4♣ call clarifies what trumps are likely to be. If that is the case, declarer has denied a diamond control of any sort. Indeed, I think if you were purely shown the auction, you would be very likely to lead a diamond based on East's failure to cue bid the suit (which he would be only too happy to do with a shortage opposite 1♦ which could be 2).

2. After South lead and dummy came down, I claimed 13 tricks almost immediately and put my hand on the table. South did not mention that he had been told that I was 6-5 and that it was the reason for the lead. All he did was apologise to his partner and say how silly he was. He did not complain or call the TD. It was only at the end of the match that he called the TD and made the points he is now making. It seems unlikely that the explanation influenced him greatly if he did not make the point immediately.

3. Even if I was 6-5, leading a top diamond is obviously correct. Every top player that I have asked expressed this view. His statement that I would have at most one diamond is obviously wrong as a matter of simple arithmetic ( $13 - 11 = 2$ ). A top diamond wins if I have two diamonds. It also wins if I have one diamond (which is unlikely, see above) and a loser in hearts or clubs (in which he has a void) or even a heart ruff (he has 5). It only loses if I have two small spades and dummy has Kx... and enough spades can go on the hearts. That would mean partner had bid RKCB knowing that he would have to bid slam missing two keycards and that is what he had to do. In other words, partner's hand would have to have been something like KJx KQx Jx A10xxx. Also I would have by-passed a diamond cue with a void in diamonds. This is a very unlikely situation. Therefore, not leading a high diamond is sufficiently anti-percentage to be described as a wild and gambling action.

## APPEAL No : 15.057

### Appeals Committee decision:

Director's ruling amended.  
Deposit returned

### Appeals Committee's comments:

Facts: South asked West (his screenmate) for an explanation of the auction. West said that had no agreement, but that he thought East was showing 5-6 in hearts and clubs. South then led a spade, and 6C made. South has claimed that without the explanation, he would have led a diamond. East/West had no agreement about the auction.

The TD ruled MI and adjusted the result to 6♣-1 (Law 75B). East/West have appealed.

Appeal Ruling: Table result reinstated. 6♣= by E/W

Reasons: The AC was split whether the original explanation was actually MI. One view was that once an initial explanation of "no agreement" had been made, any further comments were intended to be helpful, and should not be taken as firm information. The other view was that offering the explanation in the first place had misled South, and that West was at fault for providing an incorrect explanation.

However, the reason for the appeal ruling is based on the information available to South from the content of his own hand. As he has written in his submission, he held the AK of diamonds and therefore knew that West must have bid Blackwood with no diamond control (West had opened 1♦, so must have held at least two cards in the suit). Therefore, South already knew from his own hand what West thought the bidding meant. Asking the question of West provided the additional information that West was unsure of the meaning of the auction. The explanation about 5-6 was not new information, so South cannot claim damage from this part of the explanation. Therefore, the table result is reinstated.

### L&E Comment:

#### MI from 'no agreement'

There was discussion on how to proceed when players said 'no agreement' in response to a question, but then attempted to clarify (usually in an attempt to be helpful) by using statements such as 'no agreement but I'm taking it as .....' or 'no agreement but he is likely to have ....'. While the first is definitely unacceptable, the second could be unhelpful and dangerous although knowledge from similar auctions in the past might be helpful. Players should give all relevant information from partnership experience and any general agreements but should not guess what a call might mean because of the possibility of misinformation.

## APPEAL No : 15.057

15.057

JA: I like the AC's reasoning. There is an error in the write-up in that the table result is shown as 6♣ + 1 but the AC decision is stated as restoring the table result of 6♣=.

HD: I agree with the AC. It is clear that South would normally lead a top diamond but was put off by the erroneous explanation. Is that sufficient to adjust the score? I don't think so if it is evident to make the lead anyway. The other point is if the opponents say no agreement and then make an attempt to guess. I think that if the opening statement is no agreement, then relying on subsequent comments about the bid is at your own risk.

RJF: I thought when first considering this hand, and have had no reason subsequently to change my view, that South's choice of opening lead was surreal.

PL: I prefer Sarah's ruling. Players should not volunteer guesses about the meaning of calls. "If West had simply said 'no agreement' it is clear that South would have led a top diamond and continued the suit on seeing the dummy" sums it up for me, and it is irrelevant what South could or did not work out on the actual explanation.

TR: I wouldn't like to encourage players to clam up and say only "no agreement" when they have a pretty good idea of what partner's bid means.

AW: I think I prefer the TD's view to the AC's. If there was MI, surely it is hard to believe that this did not affect South's actions. The fact that the AC believe South should still have got it right is irrelevant unless his failure to do so was an extremely serious error.

# APPEAL No : 15.059

**Tournament Director:** Maggs Pyner

**Appeals Committee:** David Harris (C), Norman Selway, Simon Cope

<p>♠ 7 ♥ 832 ♦ K987653 ♣ 106</p> <p>♠ J93                      ♠ AQ10542 ♥ Q107                    ♥ AJ ♦ Q4                        ♦ J2 ♣ AQ853                 ♣ J94</p> <p>♠ K86 ♥ K9654 ♦ A10 ♣ K72</p>	<p>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</p> <table><thead><tr><th><b>West</b></th><th><b>North</b></th><th><b>East</b></th><th><b>South</b></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♣ (1)</td><td>Pass (2)</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>4♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Dbl</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">All Pass</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>(1) Described as forcing, even though a passed hand. (2) Alleged hesitation</p>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♣ (1)	Pass (2)	2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl	All Pass			
<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>																		
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass																		
2♣ (1)	Pass (2)	2♠	Pass																		
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl																		
All Pass																					

## Basic systems:

North-South system – not recorded

East-West system – not recorded

**Form of Scoring:** XIMPs, teams of 8.

**Result at table:** 4♠x – 1 by East; NS +200; lead ♦ A

**Director first called:** At the end of hand.

## Director's statement of facts:

I was called to the table after the play of the board was finished. South had spread his hand and discussions were taking place with regard to South's double. EW stated that they felt that there had been a hesitation by North. South stated that he hadn't noticed but North stated that he had a 'slight think'. I recorded the hand and went away to consult on the ruling. EW then stated that they felt the ♦ A lead was 'aggressive' and the hesitation by North suggested that this could have been successful. (Weak Jump Overall was not mentioned at the time).

## Director's ruling:

A weighted ruling was not considered. Score for both sides 4♠ - 1 by East; NS +100.

## Details of ruling:

I consulted TDs in regard to this and after consideration it was felt that South had a difficult hand to lead from and felt that the ♦ A may well have been found without the hesitation. Consulting players on what lead they would make not mentioning the hesitation - ♦ A seemed best from a difficult hand.

## Director's comments:

I ruled that the hesitation suggested some values in the North hand and although I consulted at least 6 players and 3 TDs and put it to the players that 'was the double the action they would take over the hesitation'. All consulted felt that the double should not be allowed. NS at the time argued that they felt the double was not a suggested action after the hesitation. EW then felt that the ♦ A lead was suggested by the hesitation.

## APPEAL No : 15.059

**Appeal lodged by:** Both sides

**Basis of appeal:**

**Comments by North-South:** None

**Comments by East-West:** None

### Appeals Committee decision:

There were two appeals.

1. Query the lead of the ♦ A. Not unusual; not suggested by the pause for thought.

Director's ruling stands.

Deposit forfeited

2. Appeal against the removal of the double by NS. The hesitation may have influenced South that partner had something so double was more likely to succeed.

However, the TD cannot be certain that a player polled was told that West had passed initially and that may have affected the decision to double or not, so the deposit is returned.

Director's ruling stands.

Deposit returned.

### Appeals Committee's comments:

**L&E Comment:** None

JA: E/W's claim that South chose an aggressive lead is fascinating. What passive lead would they recommend on that hand? I agree with the AC that their appeal on this point was frivolous. I can't really see the connection between a possible hesitation on the North hand and South's decision to double. E/W have bid game from strength on an uncontested auction: surely any hesitation could not demonstrably suggest that North holds defence against a spade contract. Hence my inclination would have been to allow the N/S appeal and revert the score to the table result.

HD: I agree about the ♦ A lead. I'm not certain about the double. South knows that the game is going to be thin and decided to make a sporting double. I don't know about the state of the match or whether North-South were having a good or bad card up to this point, but I think it is unlikely to be influenced by the hesitation. Partner is not going to have much, with or without the hesitation.

RJF: No comment

PL: I don't think the double or the lead are affected by any UI

TR: No Comment

AW: Good work by the AC, I feel.

\*\*\* End of 2015 hands \*\*\*



## Report of a misbid No : 15.042

\*\* Note: these are included for TD training purposes only following the change in the way Misbids are handled from August 1<sup>st</sup> 2015

**Tournament Director:** James Vickers

<p>♠ KQ104 ♥ AJ10 ♦ Q932 ♣ 98</p> <p>♠ 7                      ♠ A862 ♥ Q842                  ♥ 73 ♦ AK8764                ♦ 10 ♣ AJ                      ♣ K76542</p> <p>♠ J953 ♥ K965 ♦ J5 ♣ Q103</p>	<p>Board 13 : Dealer North : All vulnerable</p> <table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♦ (A1)</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♠</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass (2)</td><td>Pass</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>(1) Alerted, explained as spades and another (2) North called the TD at this point to ask me to look at the hand as the auction did not make sense.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		1NT	Pass	Pass	2♦ (A1)	Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass (2)	Pass
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>														
	1NT	Pass	Pass														
2♦ (A1)	Pass	3♠	Pass														
3NT	Pass	Pass (2)	Pass														

### Basic systems:

North-South system – Reverse Benji, weak NT  
East-West system – not recorded

**Form of Scoring:** IMPs to VPs

**Result at table:** 3NT – 3 by West; +300

### Director's statement of facts:

North suspected there could have been a misbid and asked me to investigate. West intended to make a call to show the red suits (not just diamonds) but either got the system wrong or pulled out the wrong card and didn't notice in time to change it (he wasn't sure himself). Although it is possible to think up meanings for these calls that are consistent with the system (is East's bid a splinter or fit-jump – agreeing which suit? Or natural from a player who couldn't overcall a round earlier?) these are very unlikely, so both East and West can legitimately guess there has been a misbid. North concurred.

I was unable to trace East and West for their comments and details of their system.

**Comments by the partner of the player taking unusual action:**

**Any other comments by any player:** None

**L&E Comment:**

## Report of a misbid No : 15.044

\*\* Note: these are included for TD training purposes only following the change in the way Misbids are handled from August 1<sup>st</sup> 2015

**Tournament Director:** Robin Barker

<p>♠ QJ43 ♥ J1092 ♦ 72 ♣ J103</p> <p>♠ K952                      ♠ 10876 ♥ 75                              ♥ Q6 ♦ A6                              ♦ K53 ♣ K9754                      ♣ AQ62</p> <p>♠ A ♥ AK843 ♦ QJ10984 ♣ 8</p>	<p>Board 24 : Dealer West : Love all</p> <table><thead><tr><th><i>West</i></th><th><i>North</i></th><th><i>East</i></th><th><i>South</i></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♣ (1)</td><td>2NT (A2)</td></tr><tr><td>Dbl</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td></tr><tr><td>4♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>5♣</td><td>Dbl</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></tbody></table> <p>(1) Could be 2 (2) Explained as spades and either minor – agrees with system card/notes.</p>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>	Pass	Pass	1♣ (1)	2NT (A2)	Dbl	Pass	Pass	3♦	4♣	Pass	Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass	5♣	Dbl	All Pass			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>																						
Pass	Pass	1♣ (1)	2NT (A2)																						
Dbl	Pass	Pass	3♦																						
4♣	Pass	Pass	4♥																						
Pass	Pass	5♣	Dbl																						
All Pass																									

### Basic systems:

North-South system – not recorded

East-West system – not recorded

**Form of Scoring:** IMPs to VPs

**Result at table:** 5♣x – 2 by East; +300

### Director's statement of facts:

North was unable to explain 4♥ despite the fact that he passed it. South was asked the meaning of 4♥ with North away from the table and said it did not exist, although she intended it as natural; she intended 2NT as hearts + diamonds.

I was prepared to rule misinformation but bidding 5♣ over the making 4♥ was good for EW.

North has repeatedly fielded by not bidding spades but there did not seem to be any UI for him. South had UI from the explanation that suggested bidding hearts and I ruled Pass was a logical alternative and adjusted to 4♣ - 1.

**Comments by the partner of the player taking unusual action:**

**Any other comments by any player:** None

**L&E Comment:**