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| APPEAL | Non-NABC+ Nine |
| Subject | Misinformation (MI) |
| DIC | Chris Patrias |
| Event | 0-5000 Mini-Spangold |
| Session | First Day - Afternoon |
| Date | July 23, 2007 |

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|-----|-----------|
| BD# | 15 |
| VUL | NS |
| DLR | S |

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| 2,185 Masterpoints | |
| ♠ | A J 7 5 4 |
| ♥ | 3 |
| ♦ | J 9 |
| ♣ | A K J 5 3 |

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|---------------------------|-------------|---|---------------------------|----------------|
| 3,066 Masterpoints | | Summer 2007 Nashville, Tennessee | 3,067 Masterpoints | |
| ♠ | K 10 6 3 | | ♠ | Q |
| ♥ | A K Q 7 6 5 | | ♥ | 8 |
| ♦ | 4 | | ♦ | A K Q 10 8 3 2 |
| ♣ | 10 2 | | ♣ | Q 9 8 6 |

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| 3,233 Masterpoints | |
| ♠ | 9 8 2 |
| ♥ | J 10 9 4 2 |
| ♦ | 7 6 5 |
| ♣ | 7 4 |

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | | | Pass |
| 1♥ | 1♠ | 2♣ ¹ | Pass |
| 2♥ | Pass | 4♣ ² | Pass |
| 4♥ ³ | Pass | 5♦ | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Final Contract | 5♦ by East |
| Opening Lead | ♠2 |
| Table Result | 5dx making 5, E/W +400 |
| Director Ruling | 5dx making 5, E/W +400 |
| Panel Ruling | 5dx making 5, E/W +400 |

| | |
|-----|--|
| (1) | At least 4 – Canape' could have a longer suit. |
| (2) | Gerber – Not Alerted. |
| (3) | 4♥ = 1 Ace. |

The Facts:

4♣ Gerber was not explained before the opening lead. 4♥ shows one ace. South led a low spade. Declarer played a low spade from dummy. North played ♠J. Declarer won the ♠Q. 5dx made. North alleges he would have played the ♠A and played the two high clubs if he knew it was Gerber. Thought declarer might be void in Spades or partner under-leading ♠Q.

The Ruling: The table result of 5dx making five, N/S plus 400 stands. The damage suffered was not a direct result of the failure to Alert. The panel did not see a causal connection between the failure to alert 4♣ and the failure to defeat the contract. Three players of equal masterpoint holdings to North cashed the ♠A and ♣AK and saw no reason to duck the trick to try for a larger score.

The Appeal:

North said if the delayed Alert of 4♣ being Gerber had been made he would have won his spade ace. He thought 4♣ was natural and that East could be void in Spades and his partner had led from the queen. When asked about their opening leads, North said third and fifth, he then realized that his partner could not have 4 Spades – either 3 or 1. He then said that he thought E/W had had a bidding accident. Discovery did not make North cancel his appeal.

E/W acknowledged their failure to alert 4♣. They also said that since they had explained thoroughly their Canape' system, North should not have been surprised at the long diamond suit.

The Decision:

The panel felt that North should have taken his three cashing tricks immediately and assured the defeat of the contract. The panel did not see a causal connection between the failure to alert 4♣s and the failure to defeat the contract. Three players of equal masterpoint holdings to North cashed the ♠A and ♣AK and saw no reason to duck the trick to try for a larger score. An appeal without merit warning (AWMW) was issued to N/S.

The Panel: Candy Kuschner (Reviewer), Charlie MacCracken, Matt Smith and Gary Zeiger.

Players Consulted: Three players with about 2,100 masterpoints each.

Commentary:

Polisner It is a sad commentary on our masterpoint system that a player (North) can accumulate 2,185 of them and not comprehend that one discard of a club (if East was void in spades) would be significant unless declarer had 0184 distribution.

Rigal Excellent ruling and AWM; no need to waste trees here – Miserable and pettifogging appeal (MAPA) three.

Wildavsky I'd have considered adjusting only the E/W score, per Law 72B1. E/W committed an infraction, and it's possible they gained thereby.

Wolff The proper ruling, of course. To me it shows a strong lack of education on appeals to the great bridge masses. What to do, I am not sure, but possible seminars and ACBL Bulletin articles may help.