

present confirmed that 2♣ was a takeout for the majors in this auction, usually less distributional (as little as 4-4) than a 2♦ cue-bid (which would also have shown both majors but have been more distributional, at least 5-5). East eventually agreed that that was indeed what the team played.

The Director: Since North was determined to have been given misinformation the Director polled a number of expert players about what action North might take over 2♠ given the correct information and subsequently what action South might take if 2♠ doubled was passed to him. Experts were also polled as to the likely result in 2♠ doubled.

Ruling: The contract was adjusted to 2♠ doubled by West -1, +1100 for N/S.

Relevant Laws: 75, 40 and 12C2.

East/West appealed.

Present: All four players and both team captains.

The Players: West explained that his partnership played 2♣ in the present auction to show 4-4 or 4-5 in the majors (either way), allowing partner to relay with 2♦ so that the 2♣ bidder could bid his longer major with unequal lengths. After a double they played a pass by the 2♣ bidder's partner showed 6+ clubs, a redouble asked the 2♣ bidder to bid his longer major, and 2♦ or two of a major was to play. West also maintained that North was unlikely to have doubled 2♠, but even if he did he (West) would not have sat for it since he would have "known" the defense held at least six trumps and that he was at best in a four-three fit. East said that, given that he thought he had bid clubs naturally West's 2♠ bid could have been either natural or lead directing with a club fit. If South's double of 2♣ was takeout of clubs and North's double of 2♠ was penalty he would have known that West did not hold spades and that 2♠ was lead directing, so he would have run. North said that given the correct information that 2♣ showed the majors, and that his partner's double was penalty-oriented, his double of 2♠ with four trumps was automatic.

The Committee: It was clear to the Committee that North had been misinformed and would have doubled 2♠ had he been told the actual meaning of 2♣. Regarding whether East or West would have been able to run from the double, East had no reason to run since he had more than adequate trump support if West really had spades (and N/S were having a bidding misunderstanding) and in any case West would know to run if he bid 2♠ as a lead director with a club fit. But West had no reason to run since East could easily have four spades (N/S could be 3-2 in the suit; not every pair requires six-plus trumps to double in these auctions) and four or five hearts. Finally, it was determined that after a trump lead E/W were unlikely to take more than three trump tricks in 2♠ doubled.

The Committee's decision: The Committee upheld the Directors ruling to adjust the contract to 2♠x -5, +1100 for N/S. In addition, it was believed that E/W produced no good argument that the misinformation had not affected N/S's actions, that N/S would not be able to double 2♠, or that it would be clear to either E/W player to run from 2♠ doubled.

Deposit: Retained

