

Unauthorised Information

Many players have a very hazy idea about the term Unauthorized Information. So don't be embarrassed if you are one of them. You are not alone.

It is quite a mouthful, so many Directors abbreviate it to just the letters U.I. It is information that did not come to you from bids made or cards played.

It could be from overhearing a comment at the next table.

It could be hearing partner explain a bid as something other than you intended.

It could be just seeing partner alert a bid you intended as natural

It could also be seeing partner NOT alert a bid you intended as artificial

Partner thinking a long time before doing something can also give you U.I.

They open 3♥, partner thinks for a while before passing.

You have U.I. that partner has almost enough to make a bid.

If you made a bid on marginal values you would be taking advantage of the U.I.

Partner opens 1♥, you bid 3♦ (Bergen raise). Partner thinks a while then bids 3♥.

You have U.I. that partner isn't absolutely minimum, they almost bid 4♥.

If you changed your mind and raised to 4♥ it would take advantage of the U.I.

You open 1♥ and partner thinks for a while before finally deciding to bid 2♥

Partner might have been thinking of passing, or of bidding more hearts.

Maybe they wanted to bid spades, or perhaps 1NT with a flat hand.

All of those things are so different they do not help you with your call.

You are not allowed to know partner had a long think.

But it does not help you at all. You do not really have any USEFUL U.I. No problem.

If you make a bid you intended as natural but partner alerts it can be tricky.

You must not repeat your suit just to try to avoid a misunderstanding.

Unless you had such a long suit it is absolutely what you would have done anyway.

Treat any bid you partner makes as though it were natural, not some sort of relay.

To do anything else would be taking advantage of the Unauthorized Information.

I decided to write up this today because the topic of U.I. came up twice today.

Since those two cases happened early it seemed like the theme for the day.

That is why I typed up this article on the spur of the moment.

Click the link below to read a better article than my 'off the cuff' monograph:

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/arden/Unauthorised%20Information%20Article%201.pdf>