

Unauthorised Information (UI)

Simply stated, you have told your partner something that he would not have known otherwise, by illegal means.

This is usually not as blatant as something like “You do realise that I have 5 Spades and 4 Hearts so why are you bidding that!”.

Quite often giving UI is done unintentionally and only very rarely on purpose (**which is tantamount to or actual cheating which will often result in expulsion from the club**).

There are many situations when you can give your partner UI

In the bidding this can occur in a number of different ways such as

1. Asking a pointed question about an opponent's bid.
Such as after an opening bid of 1C, it would be unwise to ask “Is that a real suit?” (Implying you have clubs in your hand) as opposed to “What system are you playing?” (“5 card majors with a better minor” might be the response) or better still “Can I look at your system card?”

NB You do NOT have to have a potential bid to ask a question in the auction but you do leave yourself open to the charge of UI as it could be argued that your partner is able to draw some inferences from the fact that you asked.

2. You make a bid and then withdraw it or change it
This can happen in a number of ways such as
 - a) Your bid was lower than the previous one
 - b) You bid when it was not your turn
3. Your partner alerts your bid and when asked, he gives the wrong description and worse you correct it, thinking you are being helpful.
4. You Pass but not at the normal speed expected (known as *in tempo*)
Say you fall into a yogic trance and after what seems to the opposition a small lifetime, you pass. So “Too Slowly” is known as **Hesitation** and implies that you had something to think about. Equally you pass instantly telling your partner you definitely have nothing to think about.

In the Play it can happen by various methods as well such as

1. Not following suit when you can
2. Playing out of turn
3. Dropping cards on the table

In all these cases your partner knows something about your hand that he should not and in each case that will mean that the Director will have to redress the balance as best they can.

NB Partner Hesitation is the most contentious reason for your opponents to claim you had UI, you can bid afterwards but be careful as your bid has to stand up on it's own.