Opponent's Graveyard

Graveyard

The Stack

Judge! My opponent just cast this Bristling Hydra, but the Botanical Sanctum should have entered the battlefield tapped!

Investigations

Jason Wong, L3 Judge
Kingston, Canada
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Why Investigate?

- Understand what's happened
- Resolve disputes between players
- Solve the problem
- Catch cheaters
  - (Sometimes)
- Gain more information

Types of Investigations

Free Information

- Openly given
- Confirmed by both parties
- Objective facts
- Tidy conclusion

Editor's note: These should not be confused with MTR definitions of "Free", "Hidden", and "Derived" Information.

Hidden Information

- Motivation unknown
- Disagreement between parties
- Subjective interpretation
- Messy conclusion

Free Information

Free Information – Cards Drawn

Cards drawn for turn = (Total cards on board) - (Opening hand) - (All card effects)

- Total cards on board counts all non-library zones
- Remember to consider mulligans and play/draw
- Look for cards that "hide" cards drawn
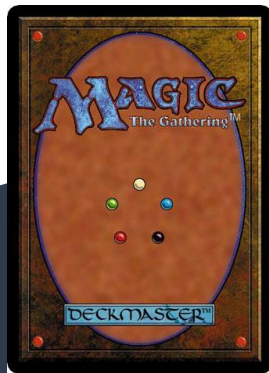
Does Player A's "Cards Drawn" match Player B's?

Cards Drawn – Effects to Consider

- Card draw = +X cards (X = # of cards drawn)
  - Brainstorm vs Faithless Looting
- Mill = +N (N = # of cards milled)
  - Dredge = +(N - 1)
- Return to Library = +/-1 (Depending on Library)
  - Green Sun's Zenith vs Grasp of Phantoms
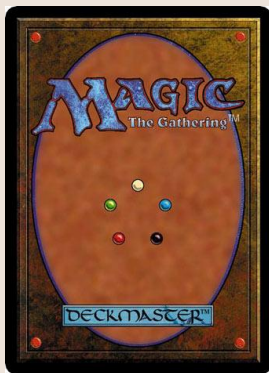- Search-type effects = +1 (usually)
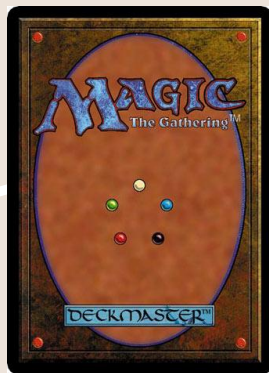 - Collected Company

Cards in hand

4

Cards in hand

4

ACTIVE
PLAYER

Rogue

Bristling

Glorybringer

Attune with Aether

Chandra, Torch of Defiance {2}{R}{R}

Planeswalker — Chandra

+1: Exile the top card of your library. You may cast that card. If you don't, Chandra, Torch of Defiance deals 2 damage to each opponent.

+1: Add {R}{R} to your mana pool.

−3: Chandra, Torch of Defiance deals 4 damage to target creature.

−7: You get an emblem with "Whenever you cast a spell, this emblem deals 5 damage to target creature or player."

110/264 M
KLD · EN · Magali Villeneuve

Botanical Sanctum

Island

Basic Land

Rootbound Crag

Mountain

Basic Land — Mountain

Botanical Sanctum

Forest

Forest

Basic Land — Forest

Cards in hand

3

Hieroglyphic Illumination {3}{U}

Glimmer of Genius {3}{U}

Settle the Wreckage {2}{W}{W}

Disallow {1}{U}{U}

Instant

Counter target spell, activated ability, or triggered ability. (Mana abilities can't be targeted.)

"How easily your flames are quenched."
—Baral, Chief of Compliance

031/184 R Story Spotlight 3/5
AER · EN · Min Yum

Plains

Basic Land — Plains

Island

Basic Land — Island

Cards in hand

4

ACTIVE PLAYER

Free Information – Life Totals

- Compare life pads
  - Where is the discrepancy?
  - After the discrepancy, are the life changes consistent?
- Look for cards that match changes
- Large life total changes = combat (usually)
- Small life total changes = effects (usually)
- Life gain is often missed
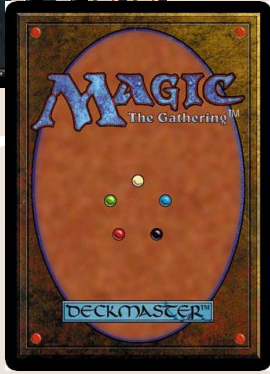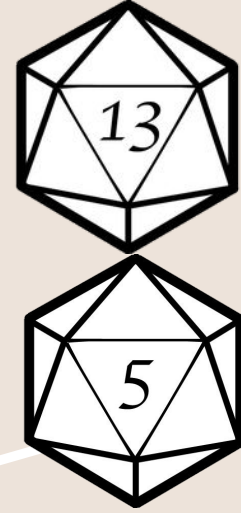- Recreate the turns in question

Wooded Foothills

Windswept Heath

Courser of Kruphix

Birds of Paradise

Collected Company

Wooded Foothills

Duskwatch Recruiter

Duskwatch Recruiter

Temple Garden

Forest

Plains

Mountain

Watery Grave

Watery Grave

Tasigur, the Golden Fang

Death's Shadow

Fatal Push

Fatal Push

Bloodstained Mire

Fatal Push

Fatal Push

Me	You
~~20~~	~~20~~
~~18~~	~~19~~
~~17~~	~~17~~
~~18~~	~~16~~
~~17~~	~~14~~
~~18~~	~~12~~
~~17~~	~~10~~
13	~~8~~
	~~7~~
	5

Me	You
~~20~~	~~20~~
~~17~~	~~18~~
~~12~~	~~17~~
~~10~~	~~16~~
~~8~~	12
5	

ACTIVE PLAYER

13

5

Wooded Foothills

Windswept Heath

Courser of Kruphix 🌲🌲

Birds of Paradise 🌲

Collected Company 3🌲

Wooded Foothills

Duskwatch Recruiter 🌲

Duskwatch Recruiter

Creature — Human Warrior Werewolf

2🌲: Look at the top three cards of your library. You may reveal a creature card from among them and put it into your hand. Put the rest on the bottom of your library in any order.

At the beginning of each upkeep, if no spells were cast last turn, transform Duskwatch Recruiter.

2/2

Temple Garden

Forest

Plains

Mountain

MAGIC
The Gathering™

DECKMASTER™

Street Wraith

Bloodstained Mire

Fatal Push 🖤

Fatal Push 🖤

Bloodstained Mire

Fatal Push 🖤

Fatal Push 🖤

Instant

Destroy target creature if it has converted mana cost 2 or less.

Revolt — Destroy that creature if it has converted mana cost 4 or less instead if a permanent you controlled left the battlefield this turn.

MAGIC
The Gathering™

DECKMASTER™

Watery Grave

Watery Grave

Tasigur, the Golden Fang 5🖤

Legendary Creature — Human Shaman

Delve (Each card you exile from your graveyard while casting this spell pays for 1.)

2🔵🖤: Put the top two cards of your library into your graveyard, then return a nonland card of an opponent's choice from your graveyard to your hand.

4/5

Death's Shadow 🖤

Creature — Avatar

Death's Shadow gets -X/-X, where X is your life total.

The shadow of the candle looms tall even as its light grows tall.

13/13

Me	You
20	20
17	18
12	17
10	16
8	12
5	

ACTIVE PLAYER

Free Information – Land Plays

- A combination of card-counting and turn-reconstructing
- How many turns has it been?
- Any effects that increase or decrease # of lands?
- What cards were played last turn?
- Why weren't other cards played last turn?
- Does the opponent have any information about the hand? (Be careful)

CARDS: 6

Non-Alex Player
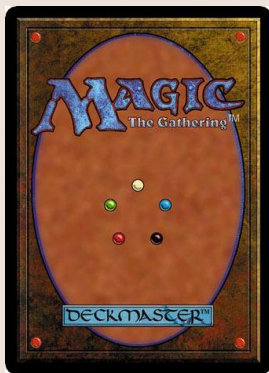
CARDS: 5

ALEX PLAYER

Hidden Information

Hidden Information – Why it Occurs

- Miscommunication (verbal or nonverbal)

- Subjective time dilation

- Established shortcuts are changed

- Heightened emotions

- Stories are exaggerated in one's favour

- Lying/Cheating

Hidden Information – Helpful Techniques

- Separate the players

- Ask open-ended questions

- Evaluate the board state

- Look for previously-established communication

- Interview spectators

- Narrow down your focus

- Trust your instinct - what makes more sense?

Cheating Investigations

"How do I get better at investigating for Cheating?"

- Ask more questions
- Don't assume innocence (or guilt)
- Seriously, ask more questions!

Paul Dean @paullife_

I cast Stasis Snare, target Reality Smasher. My opponent says 'trigger'. Comp REL. Should I call judge/should they receive a warning?

11:02 PM - Sep 12, 2017

Paul Dean @paullife_

Comp REL. I have Soul-Scar Mage and I Shock their Winding Constrictor. They put 2 counters. I say 3, they say 'Oh, ok.' Should I call judge?

Paul Dean @paullife_

Comp REL. I have flipped Avacyn, my opponent targets it with Fatal Push. They don't seem to know its CMC 5. Should they get a warning?

Source: https://www.channelfireball.com/articles/how-to-prevent-opportunistic-cheating/

Players Expect Us to Investigate

Two Important Questions

What are the chances this was an accident?
- Has the player played this deck before?
- Is the interaction new?
- Is the legal play counter-intuitive?

How could they benefit?

- How would this mistake change the game?
- What's on the line?
- What's the risk of getting caught?

These questions will help you decide whether to continue

Okay, I'm Investigating... Now What?

- Hypothesize what you believe happened

- If hypothesis is true, what else <u>must</u> be true?

- Verify/falsify these "[Collateral Truths](#)"

- Evaluate your hypothesis

- Did anything change your mind?

Collateral Truth – Third Parties

- Story may be corroborable by other sources

- Consider spectators, friends, previous opponents, vendors

- Their story may verify/falsify a collateral truth

- Careful that what they verify is related to your investigation!
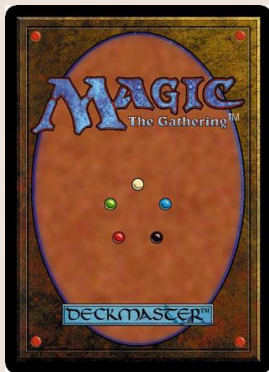
Collateral Truths – Risk vs Reward

- Assume that players are intelligent
- What is the penalty if they get caught?
- What are the chances they get caught?
- What is the payoff for cheating?
- The risk may be too high, or the reward too low
- Careful that you are not mis-evaluating the risk/reward!

Collateral Truths – Changes in Behaviour

- If a player is lying, the following things may change:
    - Posture
    - Gaze
    - Story
    - Focus
    - Gestures
    - Diction
- Careful they're not just nervous or anxious!

Hidden Information – Helpful Techniques

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- Trust your instinct - what makes more sense?

Concluding a Cheating Investigation

- Pay attention to the time elapsed
- Consider which situation is *more likely*
- You do not need to be 100% certain
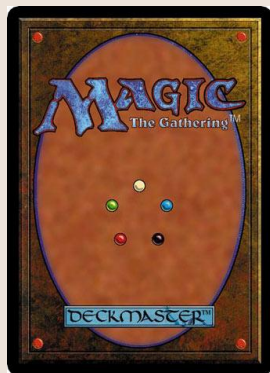- This is not an exact science
- Support your decision with reasoning
- You may make a mistake

Conclusion

- Most investigations do not result in Cheating allegations
- Master the technical parts of investigations first
- Ask yourself two questions during every judge call
- Use logic in your investigations - intuition comes later
- Many investigations will lead to uncertainty
- Ask for a second opinion if available
- Trust your instincts

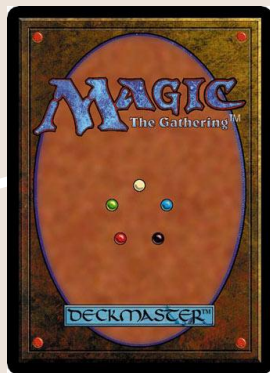# But wait, there's one more thing...

The End