

2014 Fall NABC

Appeals Casebook



Subject of Appeal: Misinformation	Case: N1
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Event Smith Women's LM Pairs	Event DIC Brian Russell
Date 11/28/2014	Session Second Qualifying


Auction

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1NT ¹	2♣ ²
Dbl ³	3♦ ⁴	Pass	Pass
Dbl	3♥	Pass	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: 14-16 HCP
2: 3+ ♣ & 5 card Major
3: Stayman
4: Intended as "Pick a Major"

Hand Record

Board	9	N	Cheri Bjerkan
Dealer	N	♠ J1043	
		♥ AQ92	
Vul	E/W	♦ 9842	
		♣ 9	
W	Judi Radin		
♠	AQ86		
♥	8		
♦	A7653		
♣	QJ8		
		S	Rozanne Pollack
		♠	752
		♥	K10763
		♦	(void)
		♣	K6532
		E	Stacey Jacobs
		♠	K9
		♥	J54
		♦	KQJ10
		♣	A1074

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
3NT by E	Down 1	N/S +100	♥ 6

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was summoned at the conclusion of play of the hand. North explained that she had intended her 3♦ call as "Pick a Major" which had not been Alerted. South said that the partnership did have that agreement, but that she did not think it applied over a Double of her 2♣ call. East, when asked about her action if there had been an Alert, stated that she would have Doubled instead of passing. With this change in the auction, following the 3♥ bid by North, West would have bid 5♦, ending the auction.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

Three players were polled concerning the decision to pass with the East hand over 3♦ without an Alert. All thought Pass was a poor choice, but not an egregious action. Three additional players were polled as to the likely lead from the North hand against a 5♦ contract, based upon the postulated auction if an Alert had been given. The majority choice would have allowed the contract to make.

Director Ruling

Per Law 75C, directors are instructed to assume a mistaken explanation and misinformation rather than a mistaken call, barring evidence to the contrary, in cases where the non-offending side fails to receive proper information about conventional calls. There was a failure to Alert, and based upon polling, it was deemed that damage did occur that was a direct result of the failure. Accordingly, per Laws 21B3, 12C1e, and 40B4, the result was changed to 5♦ by West, making 5, E/W +600.

Director's Ruling	5♦ by W, Made 5, E/W +600
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The Appeal

The North/South players appealed the director's ruling, and were the only ones to attend the committee. In their methods, 3♦ in response to 2♣, without an intervening double, would ask partner to bid their major. North believed that it should apply over a double as well; South judged that it did not. The pair had not discussed whether the artificial meaning of 3♦ would apply following a double. They did have the agreement that, following a double, 2♦ would be natural. They felt that the result at the table was due to two poor bids by East: her failure to Double 3♦ and her decision to bid 3NT.

Committee Findings

When players adopt a convention, it is not at all uncommon for them to fail to discuss the meaning of their bids when the opponents intervene. Players then have to use judgment as to what a bid should mean and how their partner will interpret it. On this hand, North and South judged differently. They did not fail to Alert East/West of a confirmed partnership agreement, and thus were not guilty of misinformation. Therefore, the table result was restored.

Committee Decision	3NT by E, Down 1, N/S +100
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Committee Members

Chair	Douglas Doub
Member	Lou Reich
Member	Fred King
Member	Patty Tucker
Member	David Stevenson



Subject of Appeal:	Tempo/Unauthorized Information	Case:	N2
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Event	Baze Senior Knockouts	Event DIC	
Date	11/28/2014	Session	Round of 32


Auction

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥ ¹	1♠
Dbl	2♠ ¹	3♥ ²	3♠ ³
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl ⁴
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Not Constructive
2: Invitational
3: Alerted as Not Invitational
4: Break in Tempo

Hand Record

Board	13	N	Ron Aschbacher		
Dealer	N	♠	Q84		
		♥	5		
Vul	All	♦	Q10982		
		♣	10983		
W	Barry Regal			E	Jeff Akers
♠	1073			♠	K
♥	43			♥	KQJ98762
♦	AKJ9			♦	53
♣	Q752			♣	KJ
		S	John Grantham		
		♠	AJ9652		
		♥	A10		
		♦	64		
		♣	A64		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
4♠X by S	Down 1	N/S -200	♦ A

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was summoned during the auction. There was a noticeable hesitation prior to the double of 4♥ by South, and North suggested that E/W might wish to call the director. North estimated this break in tempo was approximately 20 seconds, while East estimated that it was between 20 and 30 seconds. After the ruling was made, South stated that 2♠ was not a constructive bid.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

Eight players were polled on what they would do with the North hand. Two bid 4♠ after the Double by South. The remaining six passed, although several felt it to be a close decision.

Director Ruling

Per Law 16B, North chose an action demonstrably suggested by the unauthorized information (UI), and the opponents were damaged. Accordingly the result was changed to 4♥ doubled by East, making four, E/W +790.

Director's Ruling	4♥X by E, Made 4, E/W +790
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The Appeal

N/S appealed the ruling. North and West appeared at the hearing. N/S play transfer advances. North stated that 2♥ would have been a stronger spade raise than 2♠ but not a limit raise and, in fact, might be made with a hand with as little as 6 HCP. North could not explain what bid he would make with a limit raise. North further stated that he was prepared to defend 4♥, but not 4♥ doubled which is why he did not bid 4♠ over 4♥ directly. 3♠ had been Alerted as not invitational to 4♠. North said he would always pull the double of 4♥.

The West player felt that Pass was a logical alternative. North had already shown a weak hand with 2♠ so he had a typical hand for the auction. West did not raise hearts immediately, so it is likely he had just two and that East might have held only six Hearts, instead of eight. South might have held ♥KJxx for his double.

Committee Findings

There was UI stipulated by the players. The break in tempo demonstrably suggested that bidding 4♠ would be more successful than pass. The director's poll proved pass was a logical alternative even though the director who polled was not aware that North had shown a bad hand by bidding 2♠. Under Law 16, the contract must be adjusted to the 4♥ doubled, which clearly will always make 10 tricks.

The director's ruling was upheld: 4♥ doubled by East, making four, E/W +790. The Appeals Committee assigned an Appeal without Merit Warning (AWMW) to N/S.

Committee Decision	4♥X by E, Made 4, E/W +790
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Committee Members

Chair	Richard Popper
Member	Chris Moll
Member	Scott Stearns
Member	Michael Huston
Member	Ed Lazarus

Subject of Appeal:	Mistaken Claim	Case:	N3
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Event	Mitchell Open BAM Teams	Event DIC	Candace Kuschner
Date	12/01/2014	Session	First Final Session

Auction

West	North	East	South
		1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

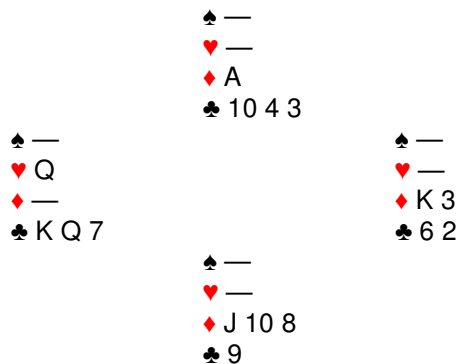
Hand Record

Board	22	N	Boris Baran		
Dealer	E	♠	8753		
		♥	A73		
Vul	E/W	♦	A4		
		♣	10843		
W	Steven McConnell			E	Rich Reitman
♠	J2			♠	AKQ64
♥	KQ62			♥	(void)
♦	Q65			♦	K9732
♣	KQ75			♣	J62
		S	Dan Jacob		
		♠	109		
		♥	J109854		
		♦	J108		
		♣	A9		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
3NT by W	Made 4	E/W +630	♥ 3

Facts Determined at the Table

The play went low heart to the 8 and king; low club to the jack and ace; ♥J, ducked all around; ♥T, ducked to the ace. North returned a spade and declarer cashed five rounds of Spades, throwing three diamonds from his hand. South pitched three hearts while North discarded a diamond. Declarer now led a club from dummy in this four-card end position:



In this end position, South conceded the remaining tricks. Hands were folded up so that North did not see all of the cards. He did not object to the concession until the score was entered and the opponents had left the room. The Director was summoned at the end of the round.

Director Ruling

Law 71 states that a concession may be cancelled if a player has conceded a trick that could not be lost by any normal play of the remaining cards. "Normal" includes play that would be careless or inferior for the class of player involved. North's delay in objecting to the concession led the director to consider that if South had the ♣9, North may not have made the right pitch when declarer cashed the ♥Q. Therefore, the table result was allowed to stand: 3NT by West, making four, E/W +630.

Director's Ruling	3NT by W, Made 4, E/W +630
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The Appeal

N/S appealed the ruling and attended the hearing. South testified that his opponents seemed anxious to leave the table (because of time pressure), and that he felt similarly. Declarer made some motions which South interpreted to mean that declarer had the rest of the tricks. South folded up his hand in what he believed was an acceptance of declarer's claim.

South agreed that he had been mistaken to act as he had, and that his action could have been, and in fact was, interpreted as a unilateral concession.

North testified that he objected as soon as heard the score as 10 tricks for E/W. By this time, E/W had just left the table.

Committee Findings

The appeals committee agreed with the director that South's actions constituted a concession of the remainder of the tricks. The committee also agreed with the director that North's objection was not made immediately in the sense intended by Law 68B2, which says, in part, "if a defender attempts to concede one or more tricks and his partner immediately objects, no concession has occurred."

The decision then hinged on Law 71. The committee judged that for North to discard a club on the ♥Q would be beyond careless or inferior. Not only had West bid clubs, he had failed to support diamonds twice. His shape was almost certain to be as it was. The committee judged it overwhelmingly likely that, had play continued, the defense would have taken one more trick. Accordingly it assigned the result of 3NT by West, making three, to both sides.

Committee Decision	3NT by W, Made 3, E/W +600
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Committee Members

Chair	Aaron Silverstein
Member	Craig Allen
Member	Adam Wildavsky
Member	Eugene Kales
Member	Ed Lazarus



Subject of Appeal:	Tempo/Unauthorized Information	Case:	N4
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Event	Blue Ribbon Pairs	Event DIC	Douglas Grove
Date	12/02/2014	Session	Evening, 1 st Qualifying Round


Auction

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT ¹
2♣ ²	Pass ³	Pass	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: 15-17 HCP
2: Clubs & and a Major
3: Break in Tempo

Hand Record

Board	8	N	Stephen Mackay		
Dealer	W	♠	Q54		
		♥	J102		
Vul	None	♦	Q852		
		♣	AQ9		
W	Jonathan Fleischmann			E	Morrie Kleinplatz
♠	J10632			♠	K8
♥	K54			♥	9873
♦	A			♦	J1063
♣	J765			♣	1042
		S	Ray Jotcham		
		♠	A97		
		♥	AQ6		
		♦	K974		
		♣	K83		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
2♣X by W	Down 3	N/S +500	♦ 5

Facts Determined at the Table

East summoned the director to the table after North's third pass. He said that North had paused for 10-15 seconds before passing 2♣. N/S agreed there was a hesitation, but did not agree on the length of time.

N/S said they played systems "on" in this sequence; a double of 2♣ would have forced 2♦ by South. The pass was non-forcing; South's double was for takeout.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

Four players were polled on what they would do with the South hand over 2♣. Three passed with the South hand and one bid, saying he couldn't sell out at matchpoints. The poll demonstrated that pass was a logical alternative.

Director Ruling

The break in tempo suggested action with the South hand. Based on Laws 16 and 12C1, pass was imposed on South. The result was changed to 2♣ by West, down three, N/S plus 150.

Director's Ruling	2♣ by W, Down 3, N/S +150
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The Appeal

N/S appealed the ruling and North, South and West attended the hearing. N/S had detailed agreements about bidding over 1NT-2♣. North was taking a shot hoping for a reopening double. N/S play negative doubles at the two level, but opener is not required to reopen. South thought E-W had an eight-card club fit and that N/S must have an eight-card fit as well, so he balanced with a double. South said North is known to bid slowly and that South is an aggressive player.

The West player believed that Pass was a logical alternative for South. N/S did not ask about lengths of suits for the 2♣ bid, but this holding was within E/W's systemic agreements, even 4-4 in the two suits is allowed.

Committee Findings

Unauthorized information (UI) was stipulated at the table by all four players. The hesitation demonstrably suggested that bidding was more likely to be successful than passing. Based upon the poll and the committee's judgment, pass was a logical alternative and therefore South must pass. It does not matter that South is an aggressive player and would not defend 2♣ undoubled on this auction after the UI.

Accordingly, the ruling at the table was upheld: 2♣ by West, down three, N/S plus 150. The committee assigned N/S an Appeal without Merit Warning.

Committee Decision	2♣ by W, Down 3, N/S +150
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Committee Members

Chair	Richard Popper
Member	David Caprera
Member	Eugene Kales
Member	Patty Tucker
Member	Craig Allen

Subject of Appeal:	Contested Claim	Case:	N5
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Event	Senior Mixed Pairs	Event DIC	Susan Doe
Date	12/03/2014	Session	First Qualifying

Auction

West	North	East	South
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

Hand Record

Board	9	N	Ernest Napier		
Dealer	N	♠	A1095		
		♥	K87		
Vul	E/W	♦	AQ652		
		♣	K		
W	Marie Sengopta			E	Joe Handler
♠	J7			♠	842
♥	AJ9			♥	1062
♦	K109843			♦	J7
♣	54			♣	AQ872
		S	Toni Bales		
		♠	KQ63		
		♥	Q543		
		♦	(void)		
		♣	J10963		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
4♠ by N	Down 1	N/S -100	♠ 2

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was summoned after the seventh trick. Declarer had won trick seven in hand. He then claimed stating that he was playing a spade, overtaking in dummy, and that the dummy was good:

	♠ 10 9	
	♥ —	
	♦ Q 6 5 2	
	♣ —	
♠ —		♠ 8
♥ J		♥ 6
♦ K 10 9 8 3		♦ J
♣ —		♣ 8 7 2
	♠ Q 6	
	♥ Q	
	♦ —	
	♣ 10 9 6	

Director Ruling

When the declarer is in dummy and takes the top three tricks (pitching three low diamonds), he is left with a crossruff. The third club in dummy is not good. However, when he plays the top two clubs and West shows out, he is allowed to figure out that the last club is not good and ruff it. The result was adjusted to 4♠ by N, making four, N/S + 620.

Director's Ruling	4♠ by N, Made 4, N/S +620
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The Appeal

East/West appealed the ruling and all four players attended the hearing. E/W stated that the declarer never mentioned ruffing.

North stated that he knew there were good tricks in dummy. North further stated that he had not been allowed to finish his claim statement before the director was called.

Committee Findings

The appeals committee determined that the play had proceeded with the lead of a low trump, and at trick two: ♣K, ♣A, ♣3, ♣4. This was followed by another spade lead at trick three and then declarer led the ♣J losing to the ♣Q. East then led the ♥10 to West's ace. Trick six was a diamond to the ace in declarer's hand, and at trick seven, declarer cashed the ♥K and claimed.

Declarer, when left with three clubs and RHO showing out, was extremely unlikely to play the last club without ruffing. The committee did not feel that the probability rose to the standard of "doubtful." The table ruling was sustained: 4♠ by North, making four, N-S plus 620.

Committee Decision	4♠ by N, Made 4, N/S +620
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Committee Members

Chair	Aaron Silverstein
Member	Chris Moll
Member	Mitch Dunitz
Member	Patty Tucker
Member	Abby Heitner

Subject of Appeal:	Tempo/Unauthorized Information	Case:	N6
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Event	Blue Ribbon Pairs	Event DIC	Douglas Grove
Date	12/04/2014	Session	Evening, Final Round


Auction

West	North	East	South
1♠	Pass	1NT ¹	4♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl ²	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Forcing
2: Break in Tempo (screens)

Hand Record

Board	8	N	Cedric Lorenzini		
Dealer	W	♠	K10732		
		♥	Q962		
		♦	K		
Vul	None	♣	1086		
W	Michael Polowan			E	Jared Lilienstein
♠	AQ984			♠	J5
♥	K107			♥	AJ854
♦	4			♦	7652
♣	KJ42			♣	A7
		S	Thomas Bessis		
		♠	6		
		♥	3		
		♦	AQJ10983		
		♣	Q953		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
4♥ by W	Made 4	E/W +420	♦ K

Facts Determined at the Table

The Director was summoned at the end of play. Screens were in use, and during the auction, the bidding tray remained on the North/East side for about one minute prior to being returned with North's Pass and East's Double of the 4♦ bid. All players agreed to the duration. The North/South pair felt that the pull of the Double was based upon the tempo break in passing the tray.

West indicated that, according to their system notes, all Doubles of part-score contracts are take-out, not penalty. Examination of the notes proved inconclusive in the eyes of the Director with regard to this assertion concerning this particular auction.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

Seven players were polled on what they would do with the West hand following the Double. All seven passed, demonstrating that pass was a logical alternative. The players also agreed that although Deep Finesse indicates that 4♦ will go down three tricks, that particular defense was highly unlikely to be found.

Director Ruling

Based upon the inconclusive nature of the system notes and the results of polling, the Director found that West made use of Unauthorized Information from the break in tempo. Per Laws 16B1a and 12C1e, the result on the board was changed to 4♦X by South, down two, E/W +300.

Director's Ruling	4♦X by S, Down 2, E/W +300
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The Appeal

The East/West pair appealed the ruling, and West attended the Committee meeting. He brought Ron Smith as a witness to their partnership agreements, as well as more extensive system notes, supporting the takeout nature of East's Double. He also contended that the slow Double made passing more likely to be successful, and bidding less likely, than if done in tempo.

The Committee also determined that the players polled had not been asked if their bid would change if the Double was systemically for takeout.

Committee Findings

The Committee determined that this was a case arising under Law 16B, which provides the guidelines for constraining a player whose partner has made available to him extraneous information that might suggest a call or play. It was clear to the Committee that there was an unmistakable hesitation.

Accordingly, the committee considered whether the BIT suggested a line of action. In pursuing this issue, careful attention was paid to the appellant's claim that the Double was for takeout (prototypically with a 2-5-1-5 distribution hand). Although the system notes were unclear on the Double in this particular situation, they were quite clear that many otherwise penalty doubles would be takeout doubles for this partnership. To provide additional clarity on this issue, the testimony of Ron Smith concerning his knowledge of the system fortified the takeout nature of the double and was convincing to the committee. This meant the putative information of the BIT was more ambivalent than the directors had previously believed. While the BIT certainly suggested something about the Double, it did not suggest a particular course of action in the eyes of the committee. This meant West could use his bidding judgment freely.

The Committee was aware that the player poll was unanimous in passing the Double. Since the players polled were not asked what they would do if the Double was takeout, the Committee felt the results might have been different with that additional information. Therefore, the Committee used its own judgment as to whether Pass was a logical alternative. It ultimately decided that while Pass was a logical alternative, it was not demonstrably suggested by the BIT. Therefore, the result at the table was restored: 4♥ by West, making 4, E/W +420

Committee Decision	4♥ by W, Made 4, E/W +420
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Committee Members

Chair	Chris Moll
Member	Ed Lazarus
Member	Lou Reich
Member	David Stevenson
Member	Craig Allen



Subject of Appeal:	Tempo/Unauthorized Information	Case:	R1
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Event	Wednesday AM Side Game	Event DIC	Jean Molnar
Date	12/03/2014	Session	


Auction

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♥
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT ¹
Pass	4♣ ²	Pass	4NT ³
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Break in Tempo
2: Intended as Gerber
3: RKC for Clubs - two w/o Q

Hand Record

Board	4	N	470 MP		
Dealer	W	♠ AQ9	♥ AK8		
Vul	Both	♦ A104	♣ Q965		
W	5800 MP			E	3030 MP
♠ K85	♥ J742			♠ J10742	
♦ J953	♣ 82			♥ 95	
				♦ Q76	
		S	430 MP		
		♠ 63	♥ Q1063		
		♦ K82	♣ AK74		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
6♥ by S	Made 6	N/S +1430	♦ 3

Facts Determined at the Table

All parties agreed that South paused for about 20-30 seconds before bidding 3NT. North then asked for aces and drove to slam. The table director was called after North's 4♣ bid. North told the director he was always going to bid a slam. When the director asked why North didn't just bid the slam if he was always going to bid it, he responded "I had to find out what he had."

Director Ruling

The table director ruled South's break in tempo showed extra values. The BIT therefore could demonstrably have suggested that going on past 3NT was more likely to be successful than pass, which was deemed a logical alternative to North's 4♣. Therefore, per Law 16B1a and Law 12, the score was adjusted to 3NT by North making 6 for +690 N/S.

Director's Ruling	3NT by N, Made 6, N/S +690
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The Appeal

North/South appealed the ruling and all four players attended the hearing. North said that they were a pickup partnership and had only played together once previously. North said that his partner's tempo was erratic and that he had not taken any inference from the BIT. North felt that he had enough extra from his previous bidding to go to slam if partner had the missing ace which he felt was confirmed by the fact that all the North/South pairs in the section scored 12 tricks. South concurred, stating that his partner's values were all prime.

East-West felt that North had stated the full value of his hand with his 2NT rebid and that the break in tempo had shown extras and influenced North to bid on.

Panel Findings

Eight players between 50 and 1100 masterpoints were polled as to what they would bid with the North hand after the 3NT call. All passed. Although three of the players were not sure if South's break in tempo before his 3NT bid suggested anything, the others felt strongly that South's BIT indicated he was considering bidding more than 3NT and that the BIT made a decision to go on more likely to be successful. None of the polled players agreed with the N/S assessment that North had extra values that had not been shown by his previous bidding.

The panel agreed with the table director's assessment and allowed the ruling to stand, 3NT by North, making 6, N/S +690. Because the panel felt that N/S had not provided a strong argument in their defense, the pair were issued an Appeal without Merit Warning (AWMW).

Panel Decision	3NT by N, Made 6, N/S +690
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Panel Members

Chair	Eric Bell
Member	Charlie MacCracken
Member	Kenneth Van Cleve



Subject of Appeal:	Tempo/Unauthorized Information	Case:	R2
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Event	2 nd Sunday A/X Swiss Teams	Event DIC	Eric Bell
Date	12/07/2014	Session	Afternoon


Auction

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♣
2♦ ¹	2♠ ²	4♠	Pass
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl ³	Pass	5♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Alerted - Michaels
2: Explained "No Agreement"
3: Break in Tempo

Hand Record

Board	17	N	3280 MP		
Dealer	N	♠ A7	♥ 3		
Vul	None	♦ A10864	♣ Q6542		
W	5970 MP			E	3190 MP
♠ QJ853				♠ K9642	
♥ AK865				♥ QJ7	
♦ 75				♦ K92	
♣ 3		S	6700 MP		
		♠ 10			
		♥ 10942			
		♦ QJ3			
		♣ AKJ97			

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
5♣X by E	Down 1	N/S +100	♥ 10

Facts Determined at the Table

Both sides agreed the Double of 5♣ came after a break in tempo. E/W said that 2♦ could show either a weak or a strong hand. East said she bid 5♠ because if partner had the ♠A, she felt she could make 5♠.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

Six players and one director were polled without being told about the BIT. Five of the players said they would bid 5♠. Two of those felt pass was a logical alternative. When asked what a slow Double meant, both thought it expressed doubt and suggested pulling. The sixth player and the director passed the Double. From this information, it was clear that Pass was a logical alternative.

Director Ruling

Under Law 16, if a player has unauthorized information due to an unmistakable hesitation, and chooses an action demonstrably suggested by the UI when a logical alternative is available, then the director shall assign an adjusted score if he considers that an infraction of law has resulted in an advantage for the offender. The result was therefore changed to 5♣X by South, making five, N/S +550, per Law 12C1e.

Director's Ruling	5♣X by S, Made 5, N/S +550
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The Appeal

E/W appealed and all four players were interviewed. West said that North told his whole story with his 2♠ cue-bid and he received unauthorized information when he heard South admit she did not know what the bid meant. Thus, he should not be allowed to bid 5♣. East said that her partner needed aces to beat 5♣. If he had the three aces he needed, 5♠ would make.

North/South believed that E/W should not gain an advantage using the tempo of their bidding to telegraph uncertainty.

Panel Findings

Four experts (Glenn Eisenstein, Linda Perlman, Sylvia Moss and Lisa Berkowitz) were consulted concerning West's point about UI. All bid 5♣ and none thought any other action was realistic.

If East is correct about her partner needing three aces, then the defense should be able to take those three tricks, the ♦K, a diamond ruff and maybe a second heart if the king is in the box. That would result in either +500 or 800 versus E/W's non-vulnerable (and not 100%) game.

The polling clearly showed that pulling to 5♠ was demonstrably suggested by the slow Double and pulling was likely to be more advantageous to E/W than passing. The Panel's decision was to cancel the 5♣ bid under Law 16B3 and Law 12C1(e), and award N/S 5♠X making, for N-S +550.

West's point about UI gave this appeal enough merit to avoid an AWMW.

Panel Decision	5♠X by S, Made 5, N/S +550
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Panel Members

Chair	Charlie MacCracken
Member	Matt Smith
Member	Scott Campbell