

Subject of Appeal:	Break in Tempo, Unauthorized Information	Case:	R3
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Event	2 nd Friday Open Pairs	Event DIC	Alex Bealles
Date	07/28/2017	Session	First Session


Auction

West	North	East	South
			1♠
Pass	1NT ¹	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT ²	Pass	5♣ ³
Pass	5♠ ⁴	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Semi-forcing
2: RKC Blackwood
3: 0 or 3 Keycards
4: Agreed Break in Tempo

Hand Record

Board	23	N	1000 MPS		
Dealer	S	♠	107		
		♥	J1082		
		♦	KQJ87		
Vul	Both	♣	A7		
W	3700 MPS			E	8000 MPS
♠	985			♠	2
♥	K765			♥	AQ93
♦	94			♦	6532
♣	QJ65			♣	10843
		S	500 MPS		
		♠	AKQJ643		
		♥	4		
		♦	A10		
		♣	K92		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
6♠ by S	Made 7	N/S +1460	♠5

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was called at the end of the auction. N/S did not dispute an obvious break in tempo.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

The Director polled six players about their action over the 5♠ sign off, without telling them about the hesitation. Five out of six players passed, which established pass as a logical alternative to 6♠.

Director Ruling

Based upon the poll results, the director ruled that the hesitation demonstrably suggested the 6♠ call. The Director adjusted the result to 5♠ by South, making seven, N/S +710, per Laws 16B and 12C.

Director's Ruling	5♠ by S, Made 7, N/S +710
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The Review

N/S requested a review of the ruling, and all four players attended the review. The facts, including the BIT were agreed. South stated that the TD's poll was invalid, because it missed a central issue: North would not have bid over 4♠ with an aceless hand. South did not know why North had signed off in 5♠.

North agreed he should have bid slam. He also pointed out that if the pollees were in the 500-1000 master point range, this was not a valid peer group. Living where they do, N/S do not have as many opportunities to attend tournaments so their experience level is higher than their masterpoint holdings indicate.

E/W said that without the BIT, NS could have been missing two aces. The BIT removed any doubt.

Panel Findings

The Reviewer decided to test the N/S hypothesis about North not bidding over 4♠ without an ace. In addition to further polling the actual hand, he composed a hypothetical hand of 10x-KQJx-KQxxx-xx, and polled ten players with masterpoint holdings from 1000 to 3000. The responses included 4NT, 5♠, and pass. Three out of ten bid 4NT. Given the actual hand, one player passed, and one bid 6♠. The others cue bid 5♠.

Since the poll results invalidated the N/S claim regarding North holding an ace, the Panel upheld the TD ruling: 5♠ by South, making 7, N/S +710.

The Panel decided that the Appeal had merit, as the TD had not investigated South's reason for bidding over 5♠.

Panel Decision	5♠ by S, Made 7, N/S +710
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Gary Zeiger
Member	Matt Koltnow
Member	Jenni Carmichael