

<b>Subject of Appeal:</b>	Tempo/Unauthorized Information	<b>Case:</b>	N1
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<b>Event</b>	Nail LM Pairs	<b>Event DIC</b>	Ken Van Cleve
<b>Date</b>	11/27/2015	<b>Session</b>	Second Qualifying

### Auction

West	North	East	South
	2♣ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♦ <sup>2</sup>
Pass	2♣ <sup>3</sup>	Pass	3♣ <sup>4</sup>
Pass	4♣ <sup>5</sup>	Pass	4♥ <sup>6</sup>
Pass	5♦ <sup>6</sup>	Pass	6♣ <sup>7</sup>
Pass	7♣	Pass	Pass
Pass			

1: Strong
2: Game Forcing
3: Natural
4: Natural, good suit
5: Club Support
6: Cuebid
7: Break in Tempo

### Hand Record

<b>Board</b>	<b>25</b>	N	Steve Caplan		
<b>Dealer</b>	<b>N</b>	♠	AKQ932		
		♥	5		
<b>Vul</b>	<b>E/W</b>	♦	A		
		♣	K10754		
W	Leo Bell			E	Jan Jansma
♠	J875			♠	64
♥	K97432			♥	QJ
♦	K54			♦	Q98732
♣	(void)	S	Gary Bernstein	♣	Q82
		♠	10		
		♥	A1086		
		♦	J106		
		♣	AJ963		

<b>Final Contract</b>	<b>Result of Play</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Opening Lead</b>
7♣ by N	Made 7	N/S +1440	♥ J

### Facts Determined at the Table

East called for the director at the end of the auction. East stated that the 6♣ bid was made in an irregular tempo. When asked for a time frame, East initially refused to state exactly how long the bid had taken; but eventually said he guessed it took 10 seconds. West said that it was 6-7 seconds. Both North and South denied there had been a hesitation, noting that the 2♣ opening bid took longer than the 6♣ bid.

### Director Ruling

Based on the information made available by the players, the director determined there had been a 6-7 second hesitation; it was, however, determined not to be a break-in-tempo (BIT) given earlier bids and the level of the auction. Accordingly, the table result was allowed to stand, 7♣ by North, making seven, N/S +1440.

<b>Director's Ruling</b>	<b>7♣ by N, Made 7, N/S +1440</b>
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### The Appeal

East/West appealed the ruling. West attended the hearing. West stated that the hesitation prior to the 6♣ bid stood out starkly from the rest of the auction not because it was so slow, maybe 5-6 seconds, but because the rest of the auction was so fast. There was not the slightest pause before any of the other bids.

## Committee Findings

With the new rules requiring the Appeals Committee (AC) to start from the director's ruling rather than from scratch, there would need to be clear evidence that there was a BIT in order to overturn the ruling in this case.

South's hand suggests he had no problem. With North's hand, it seems reasonably normal to bid 7♣. In slam auctions, it is pretty normal to pause for a few seconds before making a call that can be passed. All in all, the AC did not see compelling evidence to overturn the ruling. Because there appears to have been some change in tempo, this appeal was found to have substantial merit. The director's ruling was upheld, 7♣ by N, Made 7, N/S +1440.

<b>Committee Decision</b>	<b>7♣ by N, Made 7, N/S +1440</b>
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## Committee Members

<b>Chairman</b>	Jeff Goldsmith
<b>Member</b>	Scott Stearns
<b>Member</b>	Mike Passell
<b>Member</b>	Fred King
<b>Member</b>	John Lusky