

Subject of Appeal:	Tempo/Unauthorized Information	Case:	N7
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Event	Blue Ribbon Pairs	Event DIC	Harry Falk
Date	12/01/2015	Session	Second Qualifying


Auction

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

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: 15-17 HCP
2: Transfer to spades
3: Super accept, with clubs
4: Keycard Blackwood
5: Two Keys, denies ♠Q
6: Break in Tempo

Hand Record

Board	23	N	Ira Herman
Dealer	S	♠ 6	
		♥ Q9542	
Vul	Both	♦ KQ6	
		♣ J1062	
W	Joann Glasson		
	♠ KJ102		
	♥ K7		
	♦ 105		
	♣ AKQ75	E	Bob Glasson
		♠ AQ875	
		♥ AJ10	
		♦ AJ84	
		♣ 3	
		S	G. Margie Gwozdzinsky
		♠ 943	
		♥ 863	
		♦ 9732	
		♣ 984	

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
7♠ by E	Made 7	E/W +2210	♠ 3

Facts Determined at the Table

North/South called the director when West bid 7♠. There had been a marked hesitation by East, agreed to by all, prior to his 6♠ bid. N/S believed the hesitation constituted unauthorized information suggesting West bid the grand slam.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

The director polled five players with the West hand and the auction. All viewed 6♣ as exploring for a grand slam in No Trump, and when East bid 6♠ denying interest, they resigned themselves to bidding the grand in spades.

Director Ruling

As the player poll showed there was no logical alternative to bidding 7♠, Law 16 was not violated, and the table result was confirmed.

Director's Ruling	7♠ by E, Made 7, E/W +2210
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The Appeal

N/S appealed the ruling, and North attended the hearing. He stated that while he would have had no problem with a direct jump to 7♠ over 5NT, he felt that, following the hesitation, West should not raise over 6♠.

Committee Findings

The committee judged that 6♣ was clearly the correct bid at matchpoints, as there were many hands that East could hold that would make 7NT a laydown (J10 of clubs, for example), and not looking for 7NT in this form of game would be poor strategy. Given that West could easily have bid 7♠ directly over 5NT, not bidding it after 6♣ was ruled to not be a logical alternative. Therefore, the committee confirmed the director ruling regarding the table result.

The committee discussed the merit of the appeal. As there were some issues with the paperwork, and North had not been warned by the screening director that the appeal might not have merit, the committee did not assign an Appeal without Merit Warning.

Committee Decision	7♠ by E, Made 7, E/W +2210
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Committee Members

Chairman	Thomas Carmichael
Scribe	Hendrik Sharples
Member	James Thurtell
Member	Ed Lazarus
Member	Scott Stearns