

Subject of Appeal:	Tempo/Unauthorized Information	Case:	N14
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Event	North American Open Swiss	Event DIC	Tom Marsh
Date	12/05/2015	Session	First Semifinal


Auction

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

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Break in Tempo

Hand Record

Board	15	N	Scott Stearns	
Dealer	S	♠ 10		
		♥ AK74		
		♦ AJ62		
Vul	N/S	♣ AJ109		
W	Leonardo Cima		E	Valerio Giubilo
♠ A86			♠ KQJ7542	
♥ J6532			♥ 98	
♦ K5			♦ 1087	
♣ Q54			♣ 7	
		S	Jay Segarra	
		♠ 93		
		♥ Q10		
		♦ Q943		
		♣ K8632		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
5♣ by S	Made 6	N/S +620	

Facts Determined at the Table

East/West called the director following North's 5♣ call. South had taken about two minutes before bidding 4♣, and E/W believed the long hesitation had influenced North's bid.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

Several players were polled as to whether pass was a logical alternative with the North hand, and what did the long BIT suggest. Three strong players rattled off several choices that South may have been considering, but none of the players felt that any particular call was "demonstrably suggested" by the BIT. One player explicitly stated that South must have around 6 HCP (at least) on this auction.

Director Ruling

As the player poll indicated that no action was deemed to have been demonstrably suggested by the BIT, the criteria under Law 16 for adjustment were not met. Therefore, the table result was confirmed.

Director's Ruling	5♣ by S, Made 6, N/S +620
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The Appeal

E/W appealed the ruling, and North, South, East and the E/W team captain attended the hearing. East argued that the BIT implied that South was trying to decide between bidding game or not bidding game. Since he decided to not bid game, pass was a logical alternative to bidding by North.

South stated that he was trying to decide between bidding 4♣ and 4♥, as he thought his partner had five hearts from their opening bid and his ♥Q10 might be all partner needed.

Committee Findings

The committee agreed with the polled players that the BIT before 4♣ did not demonstrably suggest one logical choice over another. South could have been thinking about passing with four spades, bidding 4♥, or several other options. Therefore, North is free to bid anything he chooses as the Law 16 conditions were not met. The table result and director's ruling were upheld.

Committee Decision	5♣ by S, Made 6, N/S +620
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Committee Members

Chairman	James Thurtell
Member	Jeff Meckstroth
Member	Mike Passell
Member	Greg Herman
Member	Philippe Cronier