

Subject of Appeal:	Break In Tempo	Case:	N2
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Event	von Zedtwitz LM Pairs	Event DIC	Matt Koltnow
Date	08/07/2015	Session	First Qualifying


Auction

West	North	East	South
		1♦	1♠
2♣	Pass	2♦	2♥
2♠	3♥	3NT	Pass
Pass	4♥	Db1 ¹	Pass
4NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Agreed Break in Tempo

Hand Record

Board	10	N	Li-Chung Chen	
Dealer	E	♠	K5	
		♥	QJ1076	
Vul	Both	♦	J5	
		♣	10853	
W	Marin Marinov			
	♠			Q32
	♥			95
	♦			K84
	♣	AKJ74	E	David Yang
		♠	76	
		♥	K8	
		♦	AQ10632	
		♣	Q96	
		S	Ari Greenberg	
		♠	AJ10984	
		♥	A432	
		♦	97	
		♣	2	

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
4NT by E	Made 6	E/W +690	♥ 2

Facts Determined at the Table

The Director was summoned at the end of the hand. The break in tempo (BIT) before East's double was agreed to by both sides; East/West said it was 30-40 second, North/South said it was 1-2 minutes.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

Three players were polled and all three were reluctant to take any action after partner's double. Accordingly, pass was determined to be a logical alternative (LA) to bidding 4NT.

Director Ruling

Under Law 16, the unauthorized information (UI) from the BIT suggested that another action was more likely to be successful. Based upon the poll results, per Law 12C1, the result was adjusted to 4♥X by South, Making 4, N/S +790

Director's Ruling	4♥X by S, Made 4, N/S +790
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The Appeal

East/West appealed and all four players attended the hearing. With his ♦K filling in his partner's suit, and a potential source of tricks in his own suit, West thought that 4NT would have a good chance of making. With almost no strength in the majors, the penalty against 4♥X was unlikely to be sufficient to compensate for the vulnerable game so passing the double rated to be accepting an inferior score.

North/South argued that passing the double could easily be the winning action, either by going plus instead of minus or by getting a penalty worth more than the value of the game.

Committee Findings

East took at least 30-40 seconds before doubling 4♥, which clearly suggested doubt about defending. The Appeals Committee (AC) determined that pass was a LA to the suggested bid of 4NT, since it could easily work out better to defend. West should have recognized at the table that he was constrained by his partner's tempo and should have passed. East/West certainly should not have appealed the Director's ruling.

The AC upheld the Director's ruling for both sides of 4♥X by South, making 4, N/S +790. Additionally, East/West were assigned an appeal without merit warning.

Committee Decision	4♥X by S, Made 4, N/S +790
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Committee Members

Chair	Douglas Doub
Member	Ed Lazarus
Member	Eugene Kales
Member	James Thurtell
Member	Fred King