

Subject of Appeal:	Tempo/Unauthorized Information/Misinformation	Case:	N11
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Event	Spingold Knockout Teams	Event DIC	Matt Smith
Date	08/14/2015	Session	First Session, Quarterfinals

Auction

West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	2♥	2♠
3♠	4♠	Pass ¹	Pass
5♥	Pass ²	Pass	5♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Break in Tempo (3 minutes)
2: Alerted as Forcing

Hand Record

Board	24	N	Ron Schwartz		
Dealer	W	♠	AKJ1096		
		♥	2		
		♦	KQ7		
Vul	None	♣	985		
W	Allan Graves			E	Richard Schwartz
♠	4			♠	852
♥	KJ63			♥	AQ10954
♦	1082			♦	AJ4
♣	A10764			♣	3
		S	Lotan Fisher		
		♠	Q73		
		♥	87		
		♦	9653		
		♣	KQJ2		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
5♠X by N	Down 3	E/W +500	♣ 3

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was summoned after the bidding tray was returned to the South/West side following the 4♠ call. The tray had remained on the North/East side for almost three minutes. Following the play of the hand, North/South expressed concern that the long hesitation had influenced West to bid in the pass out seat.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

Ten players were polled as to whether the delay could be ascribed either North or East, based upon the auction and their hands. Some felt it could not be determined, while many thought it was likely the East player. Ten other players were then given the West hand and asked, based upon the auction and the hand, if they would bid following 4♠. Nine of the ten said they would. Based upon this poll, pass was deemed to not be a logical alternative.

Director Ruling

While the extensive hesitation did create Unauthorized Information that could be attributed to the East player, based upon the player poll conducted, the UI had no effect as there was no logical alternative to West bidding. Therefore, no adjustment to the table results was necessary, 5♠X by North, Down 3, E/W +500.

Director's Ruling	5♠X by N, Down 3, E/W +500
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The Appeal

The North/South players appealed the director's ruling, and all of the players attended the committee. The North/South pair believed the UI from the long break in tempo heavily influenced the decision by West to bid over 4♣. When asked about the hesitation, East explained that his partner's 3♠ bid had created a forcing situation, and that he had taken some time to decide upon their course of action before making a forcing pass.

N/S at this point raised an additional argument to their appeal. They had not been made aware that East's pass was forcing, and under their agreements, the meaning of North's pass following 5♥ would have changed to non-forcing. South stated he would have passed out the auction if he had received the information that 5♥ had been forced by East's pass.

Committee Findings

The original charge in the appeal had been to address the possible UI generated by the Break in Tempo by East before passing over 4♣. As the E/W agreement was that this was a forcing pass, West was not acting under the influence of UI as the auction itself gave authorized information that they should make some call. Therefore, there were no grounds to adjust based upon UI.

However, N/S did raise a valid point that they had received MI when they were not informed that East's pass was forcing, as this affected their bidding agreements. The AC consulted with the directing staff as to whether a forcing pass is an Alertable call. While this is not specifically addressed under the Alert Procedures, the bidding regulations when using screens strongly encourage informing the opponents of any calls that may have an unusual or unexpected meaning.

Per Law 40B4, "a side that is damaged as a consequence of its opponents' failure to provide disclosure of the meaning of a call or play as these Laws require is entitled to rectification through the award of an adjusted score." As 5♥ by East will make five, for a score of only E/W +450, compared to the E/W +500 that resulted in 5♠X by North, it was decided that N/S had been damaged as a result of the MI concerning East's pass. Accordingly, the result was adjusted to 5♥ by East.

Committee Decision	5♥ by E, Made 5, E/W +450
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Committee Members

Chair	Michael Huston
Member	Lynn Deas
Member	Craig Allen
Member	Joel Wooldridge
Member	Jacob Morgan