

Subject of Appeal:	Tempo/Unauthorized Information	Case:	R9
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Event	Sunday Fast Pairs	Event DIC	Charlie MacCracken
Date	08/16/2015	Session	First Session

Auction

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

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: 15 -17 HCP
2: Natural & Forcing
3: Different Interpretations
4: Different Interpretations
5: 0 or 3 Key Cards
6: Break in Tempo

Hand Record

Board	13	N	5300 MPS		
Dealer	N	♠ AQ63			
		♥ A6			
		♦ J1084			
		♣ AQ8			
Vul	Both			E	540 MPS
W	1130 MPS			♠ 1072	
♠ 9854				♥ K32	
♥ 9754				♦ K3	
♦ 75				♣ K6543	
♣ 1097		S	6170 MPS		
		♠ KJ			
		♥ QJ108			
		♦ AQ962			
		♣ J2			

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
6♦ by S	Made 6	N/S +1370	♣ 10

Facts Determined at the Table

The Director was called to the table at the end of the hand. The heart bids had been interpreted differently by the North/South pair. North believed 3♥ was a control cuebid, and 4♥ was Keycard for diamonds, while South thought North was showing three hearts with 3♥ and raised to game. There was an agreed break in tempo prior to the 5♦ bid, but North maintained that with three Aces, a maximum hand and four trumps, he should go on to six.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

In the presence of East/West, the Director gave the hand to a Flight A player. The player who was polled stated that with three Key Cards, he felt obligated to continue to six (with zero, he would pass).

Director Ruling

Based upon the expert opinion, and pursuant to Law 16, the director ruled that North made his bid using only authorized information. Accordingly, the table result stood.

Director's Ruling	6♦ by S, Made 6, N/S +1370
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The Appeal

E/W disagreed with the analysis by the player who was polled. They both maintained that there should be no doubt that South knew North had three Key Cards and that South is the one who was in the position to know whether to

carry on to six. North maintained his previous position: that he was never planning to stop below six holding three Aces, a maximum and four trumps.

Panel Findings

Since North had the extraneous information (BIT by South), and the issue is whether pass was a logical alternative to bidding 6♦, the Reviewer gave North's hand to three Flight A players. Given the meaning of 3♦, they all agreed with North's 3♥ cue bid in support of diamonds. Those who were polled were told that 4♥ was RKC and that 4NT showed 0 or 3 key cards. When told that South responded 5♦, all three players immediately and unequivocally passed.

The Reviewer further inquired as to why they would not continue since they had three key cards. All three players pointed out that South has to know North has three key cards since he cue bid 3♥ immediately over 3♦ (thereby eliminating the prospect that North could have zero). One player said he bid it as strongly as he possibly can and he must trust his partner. Another player noted that South may be off one Key card and some side Kings. Without any Kings, five may be all that South can make. The Reviewer asked those polled if South breaks tempo before bidding 5♦, whether they could infer anything from the hesitation. All three players inferred that South was considering a jump to 6♦.

Based on the polling, the panel concluded that pass was a logical alternative to North's raise of 6♦. Furthermore, South's hesitation suggested that bidding 6♦ may be a better contract. Pursuant to Law 16B1(a), North may not choose among logical alternatives one suggested by the unauthorized information. Therefore, the panel adjusted the result to 5♦ by the South, making 6, N/S +620.

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

Reviewer	Scott Humphrey
Member	Kevin Perkins
Member	Eric Bell