

Subject of Appeal:	Tempo/Unauthorized Information	Case:	R2
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Event	2 nd Sunday A/X Swiss Teams	Event DIC	Eric Bell
Date	12/07/2014	Session	Afternoon

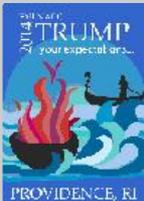
Auction

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

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Alerted - Michaels
2: Explained "No Agreement"
3: Break in Tempo

Hand Record

Board	17	N	3280 MP		
Dealer	N	♠ A7	♥ 3		
Vul	None	♦ A10864	♣ Q6542		
W	5970 MP			E	3190 MP
♠ QJ853	♥ AK865			♠ K9642	♥ QJ7
♦ 75	♣ 3			♦ K92	♣ 108
		S	6700 MP		
		♠ 10	♥ 10942		
		♦ QJ3	♣ AKJ97		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
5♠X by E	Down 1	N/S +100	♥ 10

Facts Determined at the Table

Both sides agreed the Double of 5♣ came after a break in tempo. E/W said that 2♦ could show either a weak or a strong hand. East said she bid 5♠ because if partner had the ♠A, she felt she could make 5♠.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

Six players and one director were polled without being told about the BIT. Five of the players said they would bid 5♠. Two of those felt pass was a logical alternative. When asked what a slow Double meant, both thought it expressed doubt and suggested pulling. The sixth player and the director passed the Double. From this information, it was clear that Pass was a logical alternative.

Director Ruling

Under Law 16, if a player has unauthorized information due to an unmistakable hesitation, and chooses an action demonstrably suggested by the UI when a logical alternative is available, then the director shall assign an adjusted score if he considers that an infraction of law has resulted in an advantage for the offender. The result was therefore changed to 5♠X by South, making five, N/S +550, per Law 12C1e.

Director's Ruling	5♠X by S, Made 5, N/S +550
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The Appeal

E/W appealed and all four players were interviewed. West said that North told his whole story with his 2♠ cue-bid and he received unauthorized information when he heard South admit she did not know what the bid meant. Thus, he should not be allowed to bid 5♣. East said that her partner needed aces to beat 5♣. If he had the three aces he needed, 5♠ would make.

North/South believed that E/W should not gain an advantage using the tempo of their bidding to telegraph uncertainty.

Panel Findings

Four experts (Glenn Eisenstein, Linda Perlman, Sylvia Moss and Lisa Berkowitz) were consulted concerning West's point about UI. All bid 5♣ and none thought any other action was realistic.

If East is correct about her partner needing three aces, then the defense should be able to take those three tricks, the ♦K, a diamond ruff and maybe a second heart if the king is in the box. That would result in either +500 or 800 versus E/W's non-vulnerable (and not 100%) game.

The polling clearly showed that pulling to 5♠ was demonstrably suggested by the slow Double and pulling was likely to be more advantageous to E/W than passing. The Panel's decision was to cancel the 5♣ bid under Law 16B3 and Law 12C1(e), and award N/S 5♣X making, for N-S +550.

West's point about UI gave this appeal enough merit to avoid an AWMW.

Panel Decision	5♣X by S, Made 5, N/S +550
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Panel Members

Chair	Charlie MacCracken
Member	Matt Smith
Member	Scott Campbell