

<b>Subject of Appeal:</b>	Break in Tempo/Unauthorized Information	<b>Case:</b>	N1
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<b>Event</b>	von Zedtwitz LM Pairs	<b>Event DIC</b>	Chris Patrias
<b>Date</b>	07/18/2014	<b>Session</b>	First Qualifying

### Auction

West	North	East	South
		1♠	2♠ <sup>1</sup>
3NT	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣ <sup>2</sup>	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

### Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Hearts & minor
2: Break in Tempo

### Hand Record

<b>Board</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>N</b>	Claudio Nunes		
<b>Dealer</b>	<b>E</b>	♠	10764		
		♥	Q104		
<b>Vul</b>	<b>None</b>	♦	J7		
		♣	10762		
<b>W</b>	David Walker			<b>E</b>	Kevin Wilson
♠	32			♠	AKQ95
♥	AJ72			♥	5
♦	K943			♦	65
♣	KJ8			♣	AQ543
		<b>S</b>	Shawn Quinn		
		♠	J8		
		♥	K9863		
		♦	AQ1082		
		♣	9		

<b>Final Contract</b>	<b>Result of Play</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Opening Lead</b>
6♣ by E	Made 6	E/W +920	♦ A

### Facts Determined at the Table

The Director was summoned to the table after the 6♣ bid by East. West agreed that he broke tempo before bidding 5♣.

### Director Ruling

The Director found that the BIT was anywhere from 15-30 seconds, but although pass was a logical alternative to 6♣, West's BIT did not demonstrably suggest bidding 6♣ because West could have been considering signing off in 4NT or 4♠ instead of some stronger alternative to raising clubs. Accordingly, the BIT did not demonstrably suggest bidding 6♣. Per Law 16B1a, the table result was allowed to stand, 6♣ by East, making six, E/W +920.

<b>Director's Ruling</b>	<b>6♣ by E, Made 6, E/W +920</b>
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### The Appeal

North/South appealed the ruling. North, South and East attended the hearing. In screening, North said the break in tempo was 8-12 seconds, South said 30 seconds and East said 15-20 seconds.

East said that he almost bid 6♣ over 3NT and that he was never going to play 5♣ at matchpoints. He further said that he was certain his partner would have intended 4NT as Blackwood, but that he would have passed 3NT if he weren't essentially committed to slam in clubs.

North/South stated that with suits not figuring to break evenly on the auction, East could not have bid 6♣ except for the inference of extra values from the BIT.

## Committee Findings

The Appeals Committee noted the randomness of East's decision to bid 6♣ because mismatched red-suit holdings (for example, West's ace being opposite East's doubleton) would produce down one. Because the BIT did not demonstrably suggest that West was thinking of bidding 4♥ rather than 4♦, there was some sentiment to uphold the ruling. However, taking things in order, the committee felt that passing 5♣ was a logical alternative to bidding on.

Playing in 5♣ making five may be a poor score compared to playing in 3NT making overtricks, but playing in 6♣ making five would be worse. If partner had no ace to cuebid on the way to 5♣, 6♣ was unlikely to be a success and the decision not to pass 3NT was no longer relevant. Committing to bidding 6♣ even if it has no play is forcing yourself to accept a zero in defense of the popular sentiment that playing in five of a minor at matchpoints is often bad. Therefore, the committee agreed with the part of the ruling that held that pass was a logical alternative.

The committee then analyzed each of West's theoretical alternatives to 5♣ in deciding whether the BIT demonstrably suggested bidding 6♣. Since by East's statement that 4NT was not available as a sign off, West's consideration of bidding 4NT (Blackwood) would clearly suggest bidding 6♣. West's consideration of cuebidding an ace, even if it was the "wrong one", would also suggest bidding 6♣ because it would depict extra values and create a momentum to the auction. Even considering bidding 4♠ might suggest bidding 6♣ in an attempt to recover some of the matchpoints available for a likely making 4♠ contract. As a result, the committee disagreed with the part of the ruling that held that the BIT did not demonstrably suggest bidding 6♣ and adjusted the score to 5♣ by East making six, E/W +420.

<b>Committee Decision</b>	<b>5♣ by E, Made 6, E/W +420</b>
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## Committee Members

<b>Chair</b>	Ron Gerard
<b>Member</b>	Eugene Kales
<b>Member</b>	Richard Budd
<b>Member</b>	Patty Tucker
<b>Member</b>	Ray Miller