

Subject of Appeal:	Tempo	Case:	N3
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Event	von Zedtwitz LM Pairs	Event DIC	Chris Patrias
Date	07/20/2014	Session	First Final

Auction

West	North	East	South
1♣	Dbl	Pass	1♥
Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

Hand Record

Board	8	N	Giorgio Duboin	
Dealer	W	♠ AK42		
		♥ J75		
Vul	None	♦ K854		
		♣ Q7		
W	Robert Cliffe		E	Eric Leong
♠	75		♠	Q1063
♥	A42		♥	Q109
♦	AJ9		♦	Q102
♣	A10432		♣	K95
		S	Zia Mahmood	
		♠	J98	
		♥	K863	
		♦	763	
		♣	J86	

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
1NT by E	Made 3	E/W +150	♥ 3

Facts Determined at the Table

The play to the first trick went ♥3, 2, J, (hesitation) Q. The play of the hand continued:

- Trick 2: ♣9, 6, 2, Q
- Trick 3: ♥5, 9, K, A
- Trick 4: ♣3, 7, K, 8
- Trick 5: ♦2, 3, J, K
- Trick 6: ♠A, 3, 8, 5
- Trick 7: ♠K, 6, 9, 7

Declarer at this point claimed the remainder of the tricks, exposing his hand. North, upon seeing the ♥10, summoned the director, stating the hesitation at trick 1 influenced his later play. There was no reason for a break in tempo with the actual East holding, and without the break, he would have switched to a spade at Trick 3 instead of returning a heart.

Director Ruling

It was agreed by the players that East broke tempo before playing the ♥Q at trick one. There was no demonstrable bridge reason for the break, which he could have known might work to his advantage. Therefore, the result was adjusted to 1NT by East, making two, E/W +120, per Laws 73F & 12C1E.

Director's Ruling	1NT by E, Made 2, E/W +120
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The Appeal

E/W appealed the ruling, and they, along with South, attended the committee. East stated that even if the spade switch was made at trick 3, he would have risen with the Queen, leading to nine tricks. Also, following such a switch, unless the opponents were careful in the play of the hand, North could be end played, again resulting in nine tricks.

South explained that he signaled his partner to continue hearts on trick two, following the hesitation. He believed that his partner held either the 10 or 9 based upon the play. He would not have asked for a continuation if he thought East could have held Q109.

Committee Findings

The committee ruled there was clearly no bridge reason for hesitating with Q109, so therefore an innocent opponent did take a false inference based upon the hesitation. They found it was both likely and at all probable that declarer would guess spades incorrectly and that the defense would get the play of the hand correct from that point. Accordingly, the committee upheld the table director's ruling.

Committee Decision	1NT by E, Made 2, E/W +120
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Committee Members

Chair	Aaron Silverstein
Member	Ed Lazarus
Member	Eugene Kales
Member	Craig Allen
Member	Chris Moll