

Subject of Appeal:	Tempo, Unauthorized Information	Case:	N11
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Event	NABC Fast Pairs	Event DIC	Harry Falk
Date	07/24/2014	Session	Second Qualifying

Auction

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

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: 14-17 HCP
2: Break in Tempo

Hand Record

Board	25	N	Jan Janitschke		
Dealer	N	♠	J9632		
		♥	102		
Vul	E/W	♦	93		
		♣	K1065		
W	Cameron Doner			E	Jadwiga Polujan
♠	AK108			♠	Q5
♥	KJ973			♥	AQ865
♦	A107			♦	K64
♣	3			♣	QJ4
		S	Bonnie Smith		
		♠	74		
		♥	4		
		♦	QJ852		
		♣	A9872		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
6♥ by E	Made 6	E/W +1430	

Facts Determined at the Table

North/South summoned the director prior to the opening lead. Everyone at the table agreed that there had been a noticeable hesitation by West at his first turn to call prior to passing. N/S believed it might have influenced East's bid over 3♣.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

Two expert players and multiple directors were given the East hand and the auction through 3♣. All passed, establishing Pass as a logical alternative.

Director Ruling

East's bid of 3♥ established that he held a five card suit, information which was unauthorized for West. The directing staff reconstructed a likely auction if East had passed at his second turn. West would certainly take action when 3♣ was passed back to him, almost certainly with 4♣ to ask for a major suit. Following a bid of 4♥ by East, West might explore for slam, but considering the range of the opening notrump, and only knowledge of a nine card fit in hearts rather than a 10-card fit, it was deemed likely that West would sign off in 5♥ when East only showed one keycard. Therefore, the results of 5♥ by E, making 6, E/W +680 was assigned, per Laws 16B & 12C

Director's Ruling	5♥ by E, Made 6, E/W +680
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The Appeal

E/W appealed the ruling, with West attending the committee. The case was not screened prior to the committee due to the time limits of the event. West argued that if his partner had passed over 3♣, he would have bid 4♣ and then bid Blackwood. Their partnership agreement was 1430 RKC, which would have allowed him to ask about the ♥Q and he would then bid on to slam.

Committee Findings

The committee confirmed the E/W Blackwood agreements on their convention card, and decided to allow the pair the result for bidding and making slam. However, the committee judged that East's action of bidding 3♥ following the hesitation was egregious. The initial consideration was for a half board procedural penalty, but upon learning of East's relative lack of experience at this level of competition, they decided a quarter board penalty combined with education about her responsibilities in this type of situation was appropriate.

Committee Decision	6♥ by E, Made 6, E/W +1430 E/W: ¼ Board Procedural Penalty
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Committee Members

Chair	Jeff Roman
Member	Leo Bell
Member	Jeff Goldsmith