



Subject of Appeal:	Tempo/Unauthorized Information	Case:	N3
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Event	Mitchell Open BAM	Event DIC	Candace Kuschner
Date	12/01/2013	Session	First Qualifying

Auction

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

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Break in Tempo

Hand Record

Board	22	N	Daniel Friedman		
Dealer	E	♠	A10		
		♥	72		
Vul	E/W	♦	AKJ742		
		♣	1098		
W	David Lindop			E	Robert Lebi
♠	8			♠	KQ72
♥	K94			♥	AQJ53
♦	953			♦	Q8
♣	AQJ532	S	Linda Friedman		
		♠	J96543		
		♥	1086		
		♦	106		
		♣	K7		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
4♥ by E	Made 4	E/W +620	♦ 10

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was summoned at the start of the next round by North/South. They stated that there was a substantial pause before the 3NT bid, which East/West later agreed to. The director had seen West pause to think about 10-15 seconds before bidding 4♥, but had not been present at East's bid.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

The director polled 10 players from the Super Senior Pairs as to West's decision over 3NT. Three of the 10 chose to pass, establishing Pass as a logical alternative.

Director Ruling

The player poll established pass as a logical alternative, and the UI from the BIT demonstrably suggested bidding would be more successful than passing. Therefore, the results were changed to 3NT by E, down 3, N/S +300

Director's Ruling	3NT by E, Down 3, N/S +300
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The Appeal

East/West appealed the ruling and attended the hearing.

At screening, the directors polled an additional seven players from the Open BAM event, giving them the West hand. Five bid 4♥, one passed and one thought it very close but leaned toward bidding 4♥. As to whether the BIT suggested bidding 4♥, four thought no, two believed yes, and one had no opinion.

West believed his hand qualified as a game force, in part because of the singleton spade. It was possible for West to hold only two hearts with an awkward hand for his 3♥ call. With three hearts and the singleton spade, it was clear to correct 3NT to 4♥. Additionally, East was not necessarily thinking of bidding 4♥ when he hesitated before bidding 3NT. Upon further questioning by the Appeals Committee, E/W revealed that a bid of 2NT at West's first turn to call would have shown a three card limit raise or better.

Committee Findings

There was an agreed break in tempo by East before they bid 3NT. Although East could have been considering doubling 3♠, at the given vulnerability, it was most likely that East was choosing between 3NT and 4♥. Thus, the BIT demonstrably suggested that West bid on.

Would passing be a logical alternative to the suggested 4♥ bid? For that to be the case, a significant number of West's peers would have to seriously consider pass, and some would actually consider that the proper call. Three players from the Super Senior Pairs would have passed, as well as one player polled from the Open BAM. One member of the committee judged that he would pass, and two others strongly considered it a possible action.

The West hand has moderate high card strength, but a source of tricks in the club suit. It is easy to construct hands where 3NT would be more successful than 4♥ because of different factors, or the contracts could be equally successful. Swap the ♥2 ♦J and the ♥J ♦8 between the North and East hands, and 3NT makes while 4♥ fails.

Thus, the committee determined that Pass was a logical alternative to the suggested 4♥ bid at West's third turn to call. Accordingly, the table director's ruling was confirmed.

Committee Decision	3NT by E, Down 3, N/S +300
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Committee Members

Chairman	Douglas Doub
Member	Scott Stearns
Member	Ray Miller
Member	Aaron Silverstein
Member	Chris Moll