

Subject of Appeal:	Tempo/Unauthorized Information	Case:	N3
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Event	von Zedtwitz LM Pairs	Event DIC	Chris Patrias
Date	08/03/2013	Session	Second Semi-Final

Auction

West	North	East	South
	1NT ¹	Pass	Pass ²
2♦ ³	Pass	2♥ ⁴	Pass ⁵
Pass	Dbl ⁶	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: 15 – 17 HCP
2: Break in tempo
3: ♦ & a Major suit
4: Pass or correct
5: Break in tempo
6: Takeout

Hand Record

Board	21	N	Lynn Deas
Dealer	N	♠ AK96	
		♥ 763	
		♦ QJ	
		♣ AQ84	
Vul	N/S		
W	Roy Welland		
♠	Q7		
♥	KQ84		
♦	K9742		
♣	75	E	Sabine Auken
		♠	10853
		♥	J105
		♦	A5
		♣	J1032
		S	Steve Landen
		♠	J42
		♥	A92
		♦	10863
		♣	K96

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
2♥X by E	Down 3	N/S +300	♣ K

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was summoned by West after play of the hand had completed. West stated that twice during the auction, South had broken tempo, which conveyed Unauthorized Information to North. South had hesitated for about 12-15 seconds before passing over North's 1NT, and again for about 6-8 seconds following East's 2♥ call, after receiving an explanation of the E/W bidding agreements. North acknowledged hesitations by her partner, but not as large as West maintained, and stated that South "is always slow."

Director Ruling

Examination of South's hand showed that the holding was likely to prompt a break in tempo over 1NT. The first hesitation was likely to have conveyed this UI to North. The second hesitation increased the likelihood that action by North would be more successful than inaction. Pass was a logical alternative to doubling, so, per Laws 16B1 and 12C1e, the result was changed to 2♥ by East, down 2, N/S +100.

Director's Ruling	2♥ by E, Down 2, N/S +100
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The Appeal

North/South appealed the ruling, and they along with West attended the hearing. South has been experiencing vision problems, and in order to avoid missorting his hands, he have been taking considerable extra time. Evidence supporting this existed in that N/S has received a late play, even though North was a very fast player. Also, South said he led the ♣K because he thought it was a doubleton (South did not say what he thought his actual pattern was).

North presented as evidence that she held four cards each in the unbid suits, with the majority of the hands strength in those suits. She was an aggressive player, and would always compete with a double. South had been consistently slow, and the tempo had not influenced North's decision to double.

West reiterated that South had hesitated prior to both of his first calls, but the third Pass was instantaneous. South's tempo at the first two turns suggested values that made double more attractive to North. There was no assurance at that point in the auction that either E/W or N/S had a fit, and therefore Pass was a logical alternative to a double.

Committee Findings

The amount of time that South took at his first turn constituted a clear Break in Tempo. The second pass came after a borderline BIT. Combined, they clearly suggested values that made North's double more attractive.

Although most of North's values were in the black suits, the intermediates in those suits were only moderate. The opponents did not have a proven fit, North did not have shortness in hearts, and the ♦QJ were more defensive values than offensive ones.

The AC had considerable sympathy for North, who likely would have always doubled, and for South, with his vision problems. However, they judged that pass was a logical alternative to the suggested double. Therefore, the director's ruling was confirmed.

Committee Decision	2♥ by E, Down 2, N/S +100
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Committee Members

Chair	Douglas Doub
Member	Eugene Kales
Member	Michael Huston
Member	James Thurtell
Member	Marc Rabinowitz