

Subject of Appeal:	Tempo/Unauthorized Information	Case:	N2
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Event	Baze Senior Knockouts	Event DIC	
Date	11/28/2014	Session	Round of 32

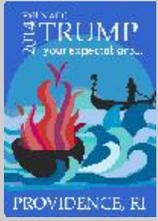
Auction

West	North	East	South
	Pass	1♥	1♠
Dbl	2♠ ¹	3♥ ²	3♠ ³
4♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl ⁴
Pass	4♠	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Not Constructive
2: Invitational
3: Alerted as Not Invitational
4: Break in Tempo

Hand Record

Board	13	N	Ron Aschbacher		
Dealer	N	♠ Q84			
		♥ 5			
Vul	All	♦ Q10982			
		♣ 10983			
W	Barry Rigal			E	Jeff Aker
♠	1073			♠	K
♥	43			♥	KQJ98762
♦	AKJ9			♦	53
♣	Q752			♣	KJ
		S	John Grantham		
		♠	AJ9652		
		♥	A10		
		♦	64		
		♣	A64		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
4♠X by S	Down 1	N/S -200	♦ A

Facts Determined at the Table

The Director was summoned during the auction. There was a noticeable hesitation prior to the Double of 4♥ by South, and North suggested that E/W might wish to call the Director. North estimated this break in tempo was approximately 20 seconds, while East estimated that it was between 20 and 30 seconds. After the ruling was made, South stated that 2♠ was not a constructive bid.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

Eight players were polled on what they would do with the North hand. Two bid 4♠ after the Double by South. The remaining six passed, although several felt it to be a close decision.

Director Ruling

Per Law 16B, North chose an action demonstrably suggested by the unauthorized information (UI), and the opponents were damaged. Accordingly, the result was changed to 4♥ Doubled by East, making four, E/W +790.

Director's Ruling	4♥X by E, Made 4, E/W +790
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The Appeal

N/S appealed the ruling. North and West appeared at the hearing. N/S play transfer advances. North stated that 2♥ would have been a stronger spade raise than 2♠ but not a limit raise and, in fact, might be made with a hand with as little as 6 HCP. North could not explain what bid he would make with a limit raise. North further stated that he was

prepared to defend 4♥, but not 4♥ Doubled which is why he did not bid 4♠ over 4♥ directly. 3♠ had been Alerted as not invitational to 4♠. North said he would always pull the Double of 4♥.

The West player felt that Pass was a logical alternative. North had already shown a weak hand with 2♠ so he had a typical hand for the auction. West did not raise hearts immediately, so it is likely he had just two and that East might have held only six Hearts, instead of eight. South might have held ♥KJxx for his Double.

Committee Findings

There was UI stipulated by the players. The break in tempo demonstrably suggested that bidding 4♠ would be more successful than pass. The Director's poll proved pass was a logical alternative even though the director who polled was not aware that North had shown a bad hand by bidding 2♠. Under Law 16, the contract must be adjusted to the 4♥ Doubled, which clearly will always make 10 tricks.

The Director's ruling was upheld: 4♥ Doubled by East, making four, E/W +790. The Appeals Committee assigned an Appeal without Merit Warning (AWMW) to N/S.

Committee Decision	4♥X by E, Made 4, E/W +790
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Committee Members

Chair	Richard Popper
Member	Chris Moll
Member	Scott Stearns
Member	Michael Huston
Member	Ed Lazarus

Commentary

Goldsmith: Good job, including the AWMW. It's reasonable to assign N/S a 1/4 board PP for abuse of UI. I suspect the vote to pass would have been unanimous had the Director stated that 2♠ showed 0-6 HCP.

Marques: It's strange that North apparently does not have a limit raise available in this situation, and also that the information about the specific meaning of 2♠ didn't come to light until after the TD's decision, but I don't think that it would significantly affect the results of the poll. A well deserved AWMW.

Meiracker: Good decision by TD and AC and the first AWMW.

Wildavsky: Well-deserved AWMW. N/S were lucky to escape an additional procedural penalty.

Woolsey: Obviously correct ruling, including the AWMW. This isn't remotely close.