

APPEAL	NABC + TWO
Subject	Unauthorized Information (UI) - Tempo
DIC	Henry Cukoff
Event	Silodor Open Pairs
Session	Second Qualifying
Date	March 9, 2007

BD#	5
VUL	N/S
DLR	North

Walter Schafer	
♠	T 6
♥	K J 8 7 5 4
♦	J
♣	6 5 4 3

Steven Love		Spring 2007 St. Louis, Missouri	Julian Hecklen	
♠	5 3 2		♠	K Q J 7
♥	Q T 6 3 2		♥	9
♦	5 4		♦	A K 6
♣	A J 2		♣	K T 9 8 7

Bill Kent	
♠	A 9 8 4
♥	A
♦	Q T 9 8 7 3 2
♣	Q

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

Final Contract	3NT East
Opening Lead	♦T
Table Result	3NT E making 3, E/W +400
Director Ruling	2♥ dbld W, -1, N/S +100
Committee Ruling	2♥ dbld W, -1, N/S +100

(1)	Break in Tempo (BIT)
(2)	A longer BIT

The Facts: The director was called when dummy's hand was tabled. N/S timed the first BIT as being 10 seconds after they noticed a pause. E/W did not think it was that long. There was agreement that the second BIT was longer than the first.

The Ruling: The BIT demonstrably suggested that 2♥ not be passed. Pass was considered a logical alternative (LA). Therefore, in accordance with laws 16 A and 12 C 2, the score was adjusted to the result of 2♥, doubled by West, for both pairs – down one N/S +100.

The Appeal: West stated that he felt that North's double of 2♥ was very fast and that his bid of 2♥ was bad. E/W agreed that East hesitated prior to passing over the double of 2♥. West felt he was bidding 3♣ as soon as North doubled and ignored the BIT by East.

The Decision: The committee found that the BIT suggested action rather than pass. In fact, West even told the committee that he knew that his partner had heart shortness when he hesitated.

The committee considered the authorized information that North, allegedly, doubled rapidly. The evidence for such undue speed was not so clear that West's obligations (to carefully avoid taking any advantage that might accrue to his side from his partner's BIT – law 73 C) were reduced in any way. The committee decided that West had not fulfilled those obligations. Therefore, an adjustment had to be considered.

After considering the play of 2♥ doubled, the committee decided that most lines of play would result in the contract failing by one trick. Accordingly, the committee so adjusted the result.

Players in unlimited nationally-rated events are expected to know of and adhere closely to the standards imposed by law. The committee found that this was a clear case of failure to comply to legal standards. The E/W pair should not have appealed the table director's ruling. Therefore, an appeal without merit warning (AWMW) was issued to E/W.

The Committee: Doug Doub (Chairperson), Gene Kales, Ellen Kent, Tom Peters and Jeff Roman.

Commentary:

Goldsmith The only issue is whether passing 2♥ doubled is a logical alternative. Can West know from authorized information (AI) that his partner is not 4333 exactly? I don't see how. If so, bidding will convert a possible good result into a disaster, which means that passing is a LA, and thus is enforced. Well done, director and appeals committee (AC).
Good write-up.

Polisner Excellent all around.

Rigal Sensible tournament director and panel ruling. One really wants E/W to be made aware that the "I made a bad bid but was always going to make a good one" is a poor line of reasoning. Good AWMW.

Smith Well done by the directors and the committee.

Wildavsky I agree that this appeal had no merit.

Wolff West's rebid was terrible. North's double was as "greedy" as it gets. East's hesitation and then pass then became hesitation disruption (HD). Although East's HD probably indicated he wanted to run, North's double had already confirmed that. However the HD should burden E/W with the minus 100 in 2♥ doubled. N/S should keep their real score of minus 400, if nothing else because of the greediness and after all E/W then did bid to 3NT and make it. Another OK ruling would be to allow plus 400 E/W and minus 400 N/S, but a 1/2 board penalty for taking advantage of HD to E/W. We need to let the punishment fit the crime and keep as much of the bridge alive as is possible, consequently, the allowance of plus 400 E/W and minus 400 N/S.

Zeiger Bravo.