

Appeal No 10

Appeals Committee: J Gerard (Chair); G Endicott (scribe); J C Beineix; E d'Orsi; J-P Meyer

Event: Bermuda Bowl

Round: 18 Table 109

Teams: Poland v Sweden

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vulnerable.

	♠ Q J 2	
	♥ K Q J 7	
	♦ K	
	♣ A Q 10 6 5	
♠ 10 5		♠ 9 7 3
♥ 9		♥ 10 8 4 3 2
♦ J 9 8 6		♦ 10 5 4 3 2
♣ K J 7 4 3 2		♣ --
	♠ A K 8 6 4	
	♥ A 6 5	
	♦ A Q 7	
	♣ 9 8	

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♦
Pass	7♠	Pass*	Pass
Pass			

*Hesitation

Comments:	North's bid of 2♣ is game forcing but he may not have a club suit. The tray returned slowly to the South side of the screen after the bid of 7♠
Contract:	7♠ by South
Opening Lead:	J♣
Play:	♣J - ♣A — ♠3 - ♣8; ♥ end
Result:	7♠ by South minus 1 = N/S -50
The Facts:	North called the Director at the end of the play to draw attention to the fact that East had hesitated after North bid 7♠
The Director:.	Relied on the General Conditions of Contest which say that "it is an infraction if a player on the side of the screen where the breach (of tempo) occurred is the first to draw attention to it and the player forfeits for his side its non-offending status".
Ruling:	Score stands
Relevant Laws:	Law 16. General Conditions of Contest
North/South appealed	
Present:	The Polish players; the Swedish Captain. The Polish Captain arrived whilst the hearing was in progress
The Players:	South said that he was shocked when the ♣A was ruffed and did not react as quickly as his partner in calling the Director. The Polish Captain asked the Committee to note that although his team could no longer qualify for the later stages of the tournament they had thought it right to raise the issue of the club lead after the delay in returning the tray.
The Committee:	Recognised that on the particular hand East does have the

problem that he would like to double for a lead but evidently risks the possibility that North/South will then move to 7NT. However, from the other side of the screen the greater probability is that the delay will be in North's consideration of his final bid. South's surprise when the ♣A is ruffed leads the Committee to believe that in his mind he had believed it was his partner who had taken the time to decide his bid. West has no greater reason that South to think otherwise. The Committee rejects any suggestion of impropriety. In any case, North by his premature summons of the Director to draw attention to East's pause has cooked his own goose. The Director is right to reject the possibility of score adjustment. Director's ruling upheld

**The Committee's
decision:**

Deposit: Returned