

Directors' Day November 19 2014. **HESITATION**

The bidding on the following hand was:

<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>
1 Spade	2 Hearts	Pass*	Pass
2 Spades	Pass	Pass	Pass

Ace Diamonds led. Result: 8 Tricks made. E/W +110

\*North said that there was a noticeable hesitation by West before passing, and he claimed it may have influenced East's decision to bid 2 Spades.

How would you deal with the matter?

Diagram of the bridge hand and bidding sequence:

**Declarer:** East  
**Vul:** All

**Optimum EW 5D: -600**

**Hand:**

**North:** ♠ J 8 6, ♥ Q 9 8 7, ♦ 7 5 4, ♣ Q 6 5

**East:** ♠ Q, ♥ K 10 4, ♦ K 10 9 2, ♣ K 10 9 3 2

**West:** ♠ A 10 9 7 5 3, ♥ A, ♦ Q J 8 3, ♣ 7 4

**South:** ♠ K 4 2, ♥ J 6 5 3 2, ♦ A 6, ♣ A J 8

**Bidding:** 10

**Tricks:** 5, 11, 11, 13

Board No 10 Both Vul Dealer East									
Pairs		Contract				Scores		Points	
N/S	E/W	Bid	By	Ld	Tks	N/S	E/W	N/S	E/W
1	30	3♠	W	♠A	10	170	4	12	
2	32	2♠	E	♠A	8	110	10	6	
3	22	3♥	N	♠A	7	200	1	15	
4	24	5♦*	E	♥3	9	500		16	
8	31	3♠	E	♥3	9	140	7	9	
9	21	3NT	W	♥9	7	200		14	2
10	23	3♥	N	♠J	7	200	1	15	
11	26	3♠	E	♥2	9	140	7	9	
12	28	3NT	W	♥7	8	100		12	4

Notes:

Hesitation - Law 16B 1(a) and then 16A 3& 4

16B 3 when to call the Director.

Do the players agree the hesitation was unmistakable? (yes)

East will argue that he has bid 2 Spades on his re-evaluation of his hand, not as a result of the hesitation. Does this explanation have any merit?

Would a number of players of a similar level consider making such a bid? How to find out

White Book 2013 – Laws

### 8.16.6.1 Is an action a logical alternative?

When deciding whether an action constitutes a logical alternative under the 2007 Laws, the TD should decide two things.

1. The TD must decide whether a significant proportion of the player's peers, playing the same methods as the player, would seriously consider the action.

What is a 'significant proportion'? The laws do not specify a figure, but the TD should assume that it means at least one player in five.

If fewer than about one player in five of a player's peers would consider the action then it is not a logical alternative.

2. If a significant proportion would consider the action, then the TD must next decide whether some would actually choose it.

Again the laws do not specify a figure for 'some', and the TD should assume that it means more than just an isolated exception.

If no one or almost no one would choose the action having considered it, the action is not a logical alternative.

Serious consideration is more than a passing thought.

### 8.16.6.2 Method

Asking players for opinions is helpful in deciding whether an action would be considered and chosen, but the questions should be carefully presented.

For example, in a hesitation case players should be given the problem without reference to the hesitation.

The TD should ask them what they would call after the given sequence, telling them the methods employed. If their answer is not the action under consideration, they should be asked what alternatives they considered.

Such polls will help to give the TD an idea of whether an action is a logical alternative

The Directors is satisfied that East's 2 Spade was a valid bid, after it was unanimously supported by other players of similar ability who were polled, and so the result stands.

Note: A hesitation by partner does not preclude a player from bidding - providing his call is not one suggested by the hesitation.