



### Working with PlayBridgeDealer 4

In the invitational Tianjin Binhai Cup World Men Elite Bridge Tournament held in September, over 3,000 boards were duplicated. On one of the boards, the positions of the ♥ 2 and ♦ 2 were switched and there had been no manual intervention. All the cards used were of the same brand and they were used only for this tournament. We have reported the case to the supplier and manufacturer but they have never had this problem before. The manufacturer, Chris Szarek, requested that we send them the deck in question so he can try to identify the problem. Unfortunately we can no longer send them the deck with the problem at this point. So please bear this in mind when you have a problem with the machine; keep the deck in question and send Chris a email telling him the problem you have, at [chris@esd.com.au](mailto:chris@esd.com.au).



### Some Information on BridgeMate II

This information can be of interest to NBOs who wish to write their own “back-end” program to the BM II wireless score input device. When a result is input into the machine, a line of data is generated. When the TD cancels a result, an extra line of data will be generated to offset the first. This will provide an audit trail of the input activities. When the correct result is then input, another line of data will be generated. Make sure that your program always picks up the last score input. For your information, the current version of the ACBLSCOR (which can interface with the BM II machine quite readily), 7.7.1, cannot pick up the last score input. You will have to manually make the correction via the ACBLSCOR input screen AFTER the results are transferred from the BM II server.

When you are using ACBLSCOR with the BM II, please note that when you make a partial?? (switching the directions of the table for some of the boards of a round when the pairs forget to switch arrow or when they sit wrongly), the current version of ACBLSCOR cannot transfer the score properly for that table although both its score input screen and the BM II are showing the pairs properly. You will need to input the score for that table manually.

The following cases came from the Tianjin Binhai Cup World Men Elite Bridge Tournament held in Tianjin, China from 10-15 September 2011. The participating teams included Asia Stars, China, England & Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, Tianjin, USA, and WBF Invitation Team. The team members included some of the top players around the world. A single round-robin of 20-board matches was played to determine the final winners. Screens were used.

Board 20

Dealer: W, Vul: All

♠ AKJ984			
♥ JT85			
♦ 63			
♣ 2			
♠ 32	<div style="position: absolute; top: 50%; left: 50%; transform: translate(-50%, -50%); font-weight: bold; font-size: 2em;">N</div>	♠ T7	
♥ 32		♥ AKQ96	
♦ KQ94		♦ AJT852	
♣ K9876		♣ -	
		♠ Q65	
		♥ 74	
		♦ 7	
		♣ AQJT543	

W	N	E	S
P	P	1 ♥	2 ♣
P	2 ♠	3 ♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	4 ♠
P <sup>(2)</sup>	P	x	P
5 ♦	5 ♠	P	P
x	AP		

<sup>(1)</sup> Canapé showing 6+♦ and 4+♥

<sup>(2)</sup> Break in tempo

Result: 5 ♠ x/N -2 NS -500

Facts:

The TD was called by North to the table after West bid 5 ♦ and the tray was on the NE side. There had been an agreed break in

tempo on the SW side of well over 20 seconds after the 4 ♠ bid. The players were told to continue with the bidding and play. The TD was called back by North after play has finished, claiming damage. He said that it was clear that the break-in-tempo was West's and that East's double was based on the unauthorised information. There was no disagreement of the facts.

EW in this particular case was using a Strong ♣ system, and the canapé sequence showed a near maximum hand.

Ruling:

The TD considered that there had been an infraction of Law 16B1(a) with West's significant break in tempo and that unauthorised information, which demonstrably suggested that East should carry on bidding, could have been passed and used. The consideration now was whether East's double was the only logical alternative. 8 different players using similar bidding style were consulted, given the bidding sequence and vulnerability of the board. 6 of them said they would have passed and 2 would have bid on.

The TD ruled that there had been an infraction under Laws 16B1(a) and that NS was damaged. The score would be adjusted according to Law 12A1:

75%	4 ♠/N -1	NS -100
25%	5 ♠ x/N -2	NS -500

Board 8

Dealer:W,Vul: None

♠ A62		♠ J
♥ AK85		♥ J94
♦ JT6		♦
♣ K74		KQ97542
♠ KT9743	N	♣ T8
♥ Q63		
♦ 3		
♣ QJ2		
♠ Q85		
♥ T72		
♦ A8		
♣ A9653		

W	N	E	S
P	1 ♣	INT <sup>(1)</sup>	x <sup>(2)</sup>
xx <sup>(3)</sup>	P	2 ♦	P
P	2 ♥	P	3 ♣
P	4 ♣	AP	

- (1) Natural 15-18
- (2) Points
- (3) W -->S Natural, E --> Escape

Result: 4 ♣/N -2 NS -100

Facts:

The TD was called by North to the table after play has ended, claiming damage. He said that if he knew the correct meaning of the redouble, he could have tried 3NT instead of advancing to what he thought would be a forcing 4 ♣.

EW was using an ACBL Convention Card as the regulation did not require that a WBF Card be used. It is marked on the card that system will be on when INT is doubled. They play transfers at the 2-level. In the INT overcall column, it is marked as 15-17 and system on. There was nothing on the card that says they play comic INT.

Ruling:

The TD ruled, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, that North had been misinformed by East's explanation of the redouble according to Law 21B1(b), and had been damaged. It was now too late for North to change his call and an adjusted score should be awarded according to Law 21B3. As it would not be possible to speculate how the bidding might have proceeded, NS would be given the best possible score according to Law 12C1(e).

The TD adjusted the score, according to Law 12C1(e):

3NT/N +1 NS +430

Post-mortem:

This was a rather strange case as East's psychic was somehow readily noticed by West. It was also strange that if the pair actually played the redouble as SOS, that West would make that bid with an 8-HCP hand (opposite a supposedly 15-17 NT). East's comic NT followed by a mis-explanation of the redouble was also quite doubtful.

Board 10  
 Dealer: E, Vul: All

♠ -	N \	♠ QT
♥ J863		♥ A4
♦ K9862		♦ AQJT
♣ KT73		♣ QJ542

♠ K86542  
 ♥ K7  
 ♦ 53  
 ♣ A98  
 ♠ AJ973  
 ♥ QT952  
 ♦ 74  
 ♣ 6

W	N	E	S
		INT	2 ♣ <sup>(1)</sup>
P	4 ♠	P	P
x <sup>(2)</sup>	P	5 ♣	P
P	x	AP	

(1) ♠ + ♥ / ♣

(2) Break in tempo

Result: 5 ♣ x/E = NS -750

Facts:

The TD was called when the bidding was over. There was a significant break in tempo on the SW side before the 4 ♠ x was passed back to the NE side. It was apparent to all players that West broke the tempo. The players were told to continue and the TD was called back when play has ended. When the TD asked West what he was thinking about, West said that he was considering whether to double or bid 4NT.

The facts were not disputed.

Ruling:

The TD considered the following factors:

1. It was not likely that West would have doubled with a weak hand.
2. What did the double mean? Was it clearly a takeout bid, and if not, why didn't West bid 4NT instead?
3. With the break in tempo, would it now demonstrably suggest that East should pass with ♠ tricks and takeout otherwise.
4. Why did East bid 5 ♣ instead of 4NT when South could well have ♠ + ♣?

The TD concluded that there had been an infraction according to Law 16B1(a) and that unauthorised information might have been passed and used. 8 players were given the bidding sequence and consulted whether they would have bid on with the East hand. 6 of them would have passed. The TD ruled, according to Law 12A1, that there had been an infraction causing damage and an adjusted score would be given:

75% 4 ♠ x/N -1 NS -200

25% 5 ♣ x/E = NS -750

Post-mortem:

1. Would the 5 ♣ double be a gambling action according to Law 12C1(b)?
2. There were unreported breaks in tempo by EW after the 2 ♣ and 4 ♠ bids. Would that make a difference in the ruling?

The following board (10) is the same as the previous one, but coming from a different match.

W	N	E	S
		1 ♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	x <sup>(2)</sup>
1 ♠ <sup>(3)</sup>	4 ♠	P	P
x	P	4NT	P
5 ♦	AP		

- (1) Strong ♣
- (2) Majors
- (3) W-> S 6-9 no majors,  
E -> N 5+ no majors

Lead: ♥ K

Result: 5 ♦ /W= NS -600

Facts:

The TD was called by South after they have completed the next 6 boards and when there was a short break. South claimed that it only came to his attention that there had been a difference in explanation of the bidding. After summoning all 4 players, the actual situation was: East initially explained West's 1 ♠ as described. When West's doubled was passed to the NE side and East alerted and bid 4NT, North asked again. East wrote down "minors" and tried to explain to North that the double showed the minors. However, North thought that 4NT showed the minors. The facts were not disputed. EW's agreement was what West has originally explained and minors can be any 5-4, 5-5 or 6-4. North claimed that had he known that the double showed the minors, he could have led the ♣ A followed by a ♣ ruff and 5 ♦ would have gone down.

Ruling:

The TD ruled that there had been an infraction according to Law 40B6. It is the responsibility of the player making the alert to ensure that his opponent is clear about the meaning of the bid alerted, although at the level at this tournament a player should protect himself by further clarification. The question: was leading the ♣ A automatic given the "correct" explanation.

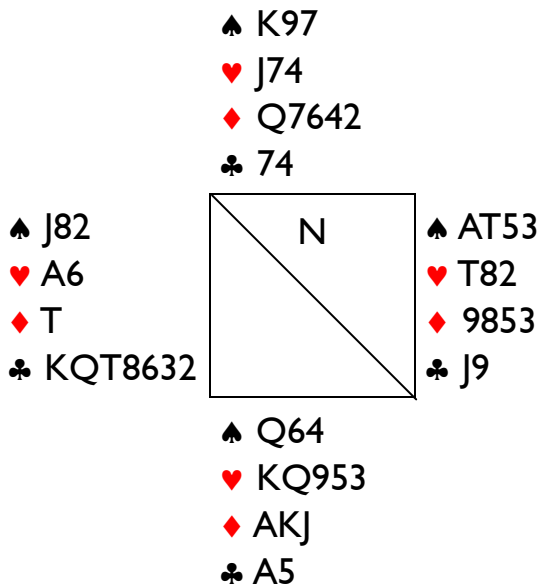
8 players were consulted given the bidding sequence and the proper meaning of the bids. 2 players would have led the ♣ A. The TD ruling that there had been an infraction under Law 40B6(B) and gave an adjusted score according to Law 12A1.

75% 5 ♦ /W= NS -600  
25% 5 ♦ /W-1 NS +100



Consultation at this tournament was particularly difficult and expensive. There were only 4 NPCs and most teams have only 4 players. Most of the time when we need to consult "experts" who were not involved with the teams in question, we need to send out email inquiries and make long distance calls!!

Board 20  
 Dealer: W, Vul: All



W	N	E	S
2 ♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	P	2 ♦ <sup>(2)</sup>	2 ♥ <sup>(3)</sup>
P <sup>(4)</sup>	3 ♥	P	4 ♥
AP			

- (1) Precision-style 2 ♣ or 5 ♠+4 ♣
- (2) Relay
- (3) Break in tempo
- (4) Usually indicate Precision 2 ♣

Result: 4 ♥/S= NS +620

Facts:

The TD was called by East when the bidding was over. There has been a break in tempo of close to 1 minute before South bid 2 ♥. EW claimed damage, saying that without the break in tempo 4 ♥ would not have been reached. There was no dispute on the facts.

Ruling:

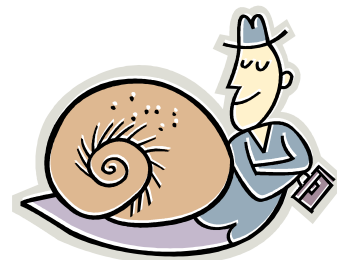
There was an infraction by South according to Law 16BI(a). Was there unauthorised information passed? The TD considered that the long break in tempo could well have indicated that South had a difficult hand, likely with HCPs but not suitable for a T/O double. This would demonstrably suggest that North should bid on with some HCPs and ♥ support. If this were the case, then North had made use of the UI passed.

In the ruling, the TD consulted 5 players and 3 would have passed while 2 would bid 3 ♥ with the North hand. The TD ruled, according to Law 16BI(a), that there had been an infraction causing damage, and awarded an adjusted score according to Law 12A1 to:

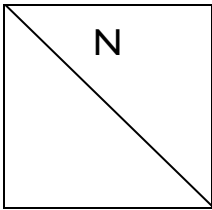
$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 40\% & 4 \heartsuit/S = & NS +620 \\
 60\% & 2 \heartsuit/S +2 & NS +170
 \end{array}$$

Post-mortem:

Incidentally South was a “known” slow player, taking a lot of time for every bid. Should this be taken into consideration if the break in tempo had been less, say 30 seconds?



Board 2  
 Dealer: E, Vul: NS

♠ A6 ♥ 43 ♦ AKT9874 ♣ A6	N 	♠ QJT82 ♥ - ♦ 2 ♣ QJ98432	♠ K5 ♥ AQT952 ♦ QJ6 ♣ T7  ♠ 9743 ♥ KJ876 ♦ 53 ♣ K5
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W	N	E	S
		3 ♣	P
3 ♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	3 ♥	3 ♠	4 ♥
P <sup>(2)</sup>	P	4 ♠	x
5 ♣	x	AP	

- (1) Non-forcing
- (2) Break in tempo

Result: 5 ♣ x/E= NS -550

Facts:

The TD was called by North when play has ended. There was a significant break in tempo when the tray was on the SW side after the 3 ♠ bid. It was apparent to the players that West has broken the tempo. The facts were not disputed.

Ruling:

The TD ruled that there had been an infraction by West with the break in tempo. After his initial NF 3 ♦ bid, the break in tempo could demonstrably suggest that he had enough HCPs outside of ♥ and that East should bid on. 6 players were consulted, given the bidding sequence and the vulnerability, as to what East would do after the 2 passes. Half of them would have bid 4 ♠ and half would have passed.

The TD ruled that there had been an infraction by West according to Law 16B1 (a) and East according to Law 73C, and awarded an adjusted score according to Law 12A1:

50% 5 ♣ x/E = NS -550  
 50% 4 ♥/N -2 NS -200

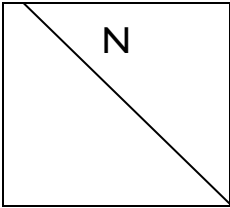
Post-mortem:

This is another strange case.

1. The NF 3 ♦ bid, made with 15HCPs, 7 controls AND ♣ fit, looked rather abnormal. 5 ♣ looked almost cold with that holding.
2. The “Pass” by West over 4 ♥, after an initial NF response, also seemed odd. West could well have beaten 4 ♥ single-handedly!!



Board 15  
 Dealer: E, Vul: NS

♠ K92 ♥ 54 ♦ 98742 ♣ 543	N 	♠ 654 ♥ 63 ♦ JT3 ♣ AJ872	♠ QJ ♥ KQJT92 ♦ A65 ♣ K6
♠ AT873 ♥ A87 ♦ KQ ♣ QT9			

W	N	E	S
			INT
P	3 ♥ <sup>(1)</sup>	P	3 ♠ <sup>(2)</sup>
P	4NT	P	5 ♥
P	6 ♥	AP	

- (1) Game Force in ♥
- (2) Cue-bid not alerted by South

Result: 6 ♥/N= NS +1430

Facts:

The TD was called by West after play has ended. The 3 ♠ bid was a cue-bid agreeing ♥ and was alerted by North but not by South. West claimed that had he known that it was a cue bid, he could have doubled and 6 ♥ would have gone down on a ♠ lead. There was no dispute on the facts.

Ruling:

The TD ruled that although there had been an infraction by South (failure to alert) according to Law 20F5(a), at the level of this tournament players should know that 3 ♠ would be a cue-bid agreeing ♥. West could also have asked South before his final pass if he wasn't sure. The TD ruled that the table score stands.

Post-mortem:

1. Would the ruling be different if this happened at a club game?
2. I wonder whether West would have doubled even if he "knew" that 3 ♠ was a cue-bid. What if East had the KQ of ♣ instead of the AJ. Now the hand would go down on a ♣ lead instead of a ♠!!



The following board (15) is the same as the previous one, coming from the other room of the same match.

W	N	E	S
			INT
P	2 ♦ <sup>(1)</sup>	P	2 ♥
P	2 ♠ <sup>(2)</sup>	P	2NT
P	3 ♣ <sup>(3)</sup>	x	P <sup>(4)</sup>
P	3 ♥	P	3 ♠ <sup>(5)</sup>
P	3NT <sup>(6)</sup>	P	4 ♥ <sup>(7)</sup>
P	6 ♠	P	6NT
AP			

- (1) Transfer to 2 ♥
- (2) Puppet to 2NT
- (3) Slam interest in ♥
- (4) No ♣ A or K
- (5) 5 ♠ and cue-bid
- (6) No shortage
- (7) Break in tempo

Lead: ♣ 5

Result: 6NT/S= NS +1440

### Facts:

The TD was called by East when play has ended. There had been a significant break in tempo on the SW side after 3NT-Pass. It was apparent to all players that South has broken the tempo. There was no dispute on the facts.

North explained that from the bidding South's 4 ♥ bid should have denied the ♣ Q and ♦ AK. Therefore, South's 15-17 HCP must consist of both major Aces, ♠ K and ♦ QJ. He bid 6 ♠ to become declarer in

order to protect his ♣ K. South's 6NT bid would be based on having the ♣ Q.

### Ruling:

The TD ruled that although there was an infraction by South according to Law 16B1 (a), there was no unauthorised information passed. The TD ruled that the table score stands.

### Post-mortem:

Incidentally, south was the same "known" slow player mentioned in the earlier case. The bidding took a fairly long time in this case and North had come up with all the correct answers. Would you trust him as a TD.

Would there be a difference if this happens in a tournament without the use of screens?



## TD Course

Watch out for the Zone 6 TD course, tentatively scheduled before the Asean Bridge Club Championships, in Bali in 2012.