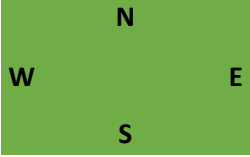


Balancing after Partner's Hesitation

Dealer North None vul.	♠ K 7 ♥ J 5 ♦ A J 5 4 3 ♣ J 6 5 3	
♠ A Q 8 4 2 ♥ T 9 8 6 4 ♦ K 7 ♣ Q		♠ J T 9 5 ♥ 7 2 ♦ Q T 8 6 ♣ K 8 2
	♠ 6 3 ♥ A K Q 3 ♦ 9 2 ♣ A T 9 7 4	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	pass	pass	1♣
2♣	2♦	2♠	pass
pass	3♣	3♠	pass
pass	4♣	pass	pass
pass			

Facts

West called the TD when North reopened 4♣ and told the TD that South had taken 2 minutes to pass over 3♠. North denied that there had been any hesitation, but South admitted that he had been thinking for a while before passing. The TD asked the players to play on.

4♣ made 10 tricks, and the TD was called again. West was unhappy about North's bid because opener could have a 3-card suit. North said that bidding on was safe because South could always take a preference to diamonds; his only problem had been whether to bid 4♣ or double.

Ruling

3♠-1. Pass is an obvious logical alternative, and South's hesitation suggests competing. Surely this North knows that his action was dubious when the TD is called, although he probably did not break the rules consciously. 3♠ should make 8 tricks exactly.

According to the Norwegian rules, East should have used the Stop card before bidding 3♠, and North complained about this when receiving the ruling. However, it was established as a fact that South's hesitation was long enough that the omitted Stop card made no difference.

Splinter or Long Suit?

Dealer North N-S vul.	♠ J9654 ♥ KT9864 ♦ 8 ♣ 7	♠ KQT7 ♥ 72 ♦ KQT5 ♣ A62	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #8ebf8e; width: 100%; height: 100%; text-align: center; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> ♠ 2 ♥ AQJ3 ♦ AJ7 ♣ K9853		N		W		E		S		♠ A83 ♥ 5 ♦ 96432 ♣ QJT4
	N												
W		E											
	S												

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	pass	pass	1♣
1♠	3♥	pass	5♣
pass	5♥	pass	pass
pass			

Facts

The contract made 11 tricks, and E-W called the TD. South had explained 3♥ as a splinter. They wondered if North was allowed to correct to 5♥.

Ruling

5♣-5. Pass is an obvious logical alternative. As seen from North's perspective, South could easily hold a hand only suitable for playing in clubs, and with a singleton heart.

The TD decided the contract should be undoubled as a double of 5♣ in the passout seat might cause South to wake up.

Which Suits? (1)

Dealer North	♠ J9654		
N-S vul.	♥ KT9864		
	♦ 8		
	♣ 7		
♠ KQT7	♠ A83		
♥ 72	♥ 5		
♦ KQT5	♦ 96432		
♣ A62	♣ QJT4		
	♠ 2		
	♥ AQJ3		
	♦ AJ7		
	♣ K9853		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	pass	pass	1NT
2NT	3♥	pass	4♥
pass	pass	5♣	X
pass	pass	5♦	X
pass	pass	pass	

Facts

1NT showed 15-17, 2NT showed ♠+♦ or ♥+♣. The contract made 11 tricks, and N-S called the TD because West had been thinking for at least a minute after the double of 5♣. East explained that his 5♣ bid was a misbid.

Ruling

5♣-X-4. Indeed it looks like East has misbid. It is unlikely that he has forgotten the system. If he thought partner had shown both minors, surely he would have bid 5♦ directly. Discovering a misbid during partner's hesitation is legal.

However, it is possible that East imagined West holding 4♥5+m and bid 5♣ as pass-or-correct. In that light, passing is an obvious alternative, so we should consider 5♦ illegal.

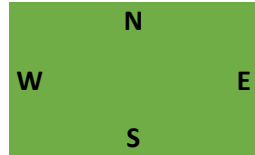
TD Cases from the Norwegian Bridge Festival 2017

Which Suits? (2)

Dealer South
N-S vul.

♠ Q4
♥ JT986
♦ Q932
♣ 82

♠ A72
♥ K4
♦ AK8754
♣ 54



♠ K93
♥ AQ53
♦ JT
♣ KQT6

♠ JT865
♥ 72
♦ 6
♣ AJ973

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1NT	X	pass
pass	pass	pass	2♦

Facts

The contract made 8 tricks, and West called the TD. 2♦ had been explained as an escape for the red suits. Therefore he had not bid 2♥. The convention card of N-S indicated "Nilsland", a complicated defense where an immediate 2♦ bid indeed shows the red suits.

Ruling

Score stands. Misbid, correct explanation.

Preemptive or Invitational?

Dealer South All vul.	♠ T 8 7 4 ♥ A T 7 ♦ K 6 5 ♣ K 4 3	♠ 6 ♥ K Q J 9 5 4 3 ♦ T 8 7 3 2 ♣ -
♠ A 9 ♥ 8 2 ♦ Q 9 4 ♣ J T 8 7 6 5	<div style="background-color: #6aa84f; color: white; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ K Q J 5 3 2 ♥ 6 ♦ A J ♣ A Q 9 2	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♠
pass	3♠	4♥	4♠
5♣	5♠	pass	pass
D	pass	pass	pass

Facts

The contract made 12 tricks, and West called the TD. South had explained 3♠ as a preemptive raise, but according to the agreement it was a limit raise. He would not have doubled if he had been told the correct explanation.

Ruling

50% 5♠-X+1, 25% 5♠+1, 25% 5♥-X-1. North has UI from the explanation which indicates a better playing hand with South than expected from the auction, and doubling is a logical alternative.

If North doubles, South might well bid 5♠ anyway (opposite a presumed preemptive raise) with his 4-loser hand, and West might still decide to double that. This leads to a weighted score reflecting the possibilities. The club lead is unlikely, so always 12 tricks.

Unusual Transfer Principle

Dealer South N-S vul.	♠ J7 ♥ J985 ♦ K832 ♣ AQ9	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #8ebf42; width: 100px; height: 100px; display: inline-table;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q863 ♥ A74 ♦ AQJ75 ♣ 8
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♠ A54 ♥ K3 ♦ T6 ♣ JT5432	♠ KT92 ♥ QT62 ♦ 94 ♣ K76											

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			pass
pass	1♣	1♦	1♠
pass	1NT	pass	pass
2♦	pass	pass	2♥
pass	pass	pass	

Facts

The contract made 8 tricks. West called the TD. North had explained 1♠ as transfer to notrump without a 4-card major, but the correct explanation was 4-4 in the majors. With that explanation he would have passed.

Ruling

25% 2♦=, 75% 2♦+1. The explanation should hardly matter to West. He is not entitled to both explanations during the auction. If he is only told the correct explanation (and not the actual explanation), he would still assume that N-S have no major suit fit.

However, from South's point of view, North has denied a 4-card major, and the UI gives hopes for finding a fit nevertheless. So South must pass, and the contract of 2♦ makes 8 or 9 tricks.

Another Transfer to Notrump

Dealer West N-S vul.	♠ QT65 ♥ 432 ♦ KQT6 ♣ AJ	
♠ 98 ♥ AQ98 ♦ 43 ♣ QT832		♠ K7 ♥ KJ65 ♦ J982 ♣ 654
	♠ AJ432 ♥ T7 ♦ A75 ♣ K97	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1♦	pass	1♠
pass	1NT	pass	2♣
pass	2♦	pass	2♠
pass	3♠	pass	4♠
pass	pass	pass	

Facts

Teams. The contract made the obvious 11 tricks. West called the TD. North had explained 1♠ as transfer to notrump without a 4-card major, but it was simply a natural response. With that explanation, West would have doubled for takeout, and East would have leapt to 3♥, making life difficult for N-S. With the actual explanation, West could not double as it would have shown spades.

2♣ by South demanded 2♦ from North, after which South could pass or invite naturally.

Ruling

Score stands. A poll showed that West was as likely to double as to pass with correct explanation, and another poll found nobody leaping to 3♥ with the East hand. 2♥ would be normal, after which South would bid 3♥ and bid game (again confirmed by a poll).

South has UI, but even if he chose an invitational sequence, passing 3♠ is not a logical alternative (another poll). South's hand increases in value when North has support for spades, and N-S are vulnerable.

The Sandwich Notrump

Dealer West N-S vul.	♠ T9 ♥ A87642 ♦ 5 ♣ T963	♠ J843 ♥ - ♦ QT97642 ♣ 87									
♠ AK76 ♥ KJT5 ♦ 8 ♣ AJ52	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #8ebf42; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ Q52 ♥ Q93 ♦ AKJ3 ♣ KQ4										

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	pass	1♦	1NT
pass	4♥	5♦	X
pass	pass	pass	

Facts

The contract went two down. East called the TD. 1NT had been explained as 5-5 in the majors. He would not have bid 5♦ in front of a strong notrump hand (1NT was natural according to agreements).

Ruling

50% 5♦-X-2, 15% 4♠-3, 15% 4♠-2, 20% 4♥-2. With a correct explanation, West would probably have doubled. North would surely have bid 4♥ anyway, expecting a 6-5 fit. After that, E-W may get to 4♠ or 5♦ or choose to defend. It is necessary to make polls for both East's and West's problems.

Unintended Call

Dealer North		♠ K 8 7 5 3 2		
All vul.		♥ 5 2		
		♦ 6 2		
		♣ Q T 9		
♠ Q J 4		N		♠ 9 6
♥ K J 7 4		W		♥ T 9 6
♦ Q J T 8		E		♦ A K 7 5
♣ K 5		S		♣ A 4 3 2
		♠ A T		
		♥ A Q 8 3		
		♦ 9 4 3		
		♣ J 8 7 6		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	pass	1♦	pass
2♥	pass	3♥	pass
3NT	pass	pass	pass

Facts

The contract made, after which North called the TD. After his 2♥ bid, West said “oops” (or did something similar), and it was clear to everybody that something had gone wrong. West explained that he had wanted to bid 1♥, but immediately after he made bid he saw 2♥ lying on the table. The TD explained that he could have changed the bid, but West thought that the bid had to stand once he had released the bidding card.

North said that in his opinion it was illegal for East to pass 3NT and perhaps even to bid 3♥ in the second round of bidding.

Ruling

4♥-1. Of course, West should have changed his unintended bid, but when he does not, his behaviour at the table is UI to East. It can be argued that the 3NT should make it clear to East that something was amiss, but in a poll more than half of the players asked corrected to 4♥. So 4♥ must be a logical alternative. This illustrates how hard it is to detect a bidding misunderstanding without UI.

Repeated Revoke Creating a Stopper

Dealer South All vul.	♠ AQJ42 ♥ 742 ♦ AKT4 ♣ 7										
♠ 63 ♥ Q5 ♦ J752 ♣ AKT65	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #c8e6c9; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ KT87 ♥ KJ ♦ Q86 ♣ Q432
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ 95 ♥ AT9863 ♦ 93 ♣ J98										

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			pass
pass	1♠	pass	1NT
pass	pass	pass	

Facts

West led a club to the ♣Q and got a club back to the ♣10. He cashed his clubs, but South did not follow with the ♣J until trick 5, having revoked and discarded two diamonds before that.

West called the TD, who explained that the revoke was established and could not be corrected, and that a trick would be transferred after the play. If this was not enough to compensate for the damage from the revoke, he would adjust the score.

Declarer had thrown two diamonds, a heart and a spade from dummy (in that order), and East had discarded a diamond. Declarer now led a spade to the ♠J and ♠K and made 7 tricks.

The TD was called back. He instructed the players to enter the score for 6 tricks and put the cards back without shuffling. He would then inspect the play and return with a ruling.

Ruling

1/3 1NT-1, 2/3 1NT-2. If South had followed suit, West would have cashed the clubs, but then he would face the choice between a spade continuation to develop partner's ♠K and a safe diamond. A poll showed that the choice was not obvious, mainly due to the fact that the position of the heart intermediates was unclear. Thus, South would have made 6 or 7 tricks.

However, the position would have been exactly the same if declarer had revoked once and then followed suit at trick four. Again, 6 or 7 tricks, but minus one trick for the revoke at trick three. Therefore, there is damage from the second revoke, and the score must be adjusted.

Does It Show 18-19?

Dealer East			♠ A 6 3
None vul.			♥ Q 9 3
			♦ Q T 2
			♣ 7 5 4 2
♠ J T 4		N	♠ K Q 7 2
♥ A K T 4			♥ J 7
♦ 6	W		♦ 8 7 4 3
♣ A Q J T 6		E	♣ K 9 3
		S	
			♠ 9 8 5
			♥ 8 6 5 2
			♦ A K J 9 5
			♣ 8

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		pass	pass
1♣	pass	1♦	pass
1♥	pass	1♠	pass
3NT	pass	pass	pass

Facts

Imp scoring. 1♠ was not alerted. It was a natural bid, not promising extra values.

North led a small spade to the ♠K, and West tried for his ninth trick by running the ♥J. Alas, North won with the ♥Q.

North now asked “did 3NT show 18-19?” and got the answer “yes”. North continued spades, and West made his contract with an overtrick.

Then North called the TD. Because of the explanation he had placed West with at least the ♦K, and therefore he did not switch to diamonds.

Ruling

Score stands. The question is silly, but even then East must give a proper reply, and if not, score adjustment is possible. But in fact, 18-19 can hardly be counted as misexplanation when he has only shown 6+ himself. West has simply upgraded in a quite optimistic way.

The most precise explanation seems to be “natural, to play”.

Forcing or Not Forcing?

Dealer West	♠ QJ86432		
None vul.	♥ A84		
	♦ 73		
	♣ A		
♠ AKT5	♠ 9		
♥ J76	♥ K2		
♦ 96	♦ AKQT85		
♣ KQJT	♣ 9852		
	♠ 7		
	♥ QT953		
	♦ J42		
	♣ 7643		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	1♠	2♦	pass
pass	2♠	3♠	pass
3NT	pass	pass	pass

Facts

Pairs. 2♦ was alerted and explained as non-forcing. North was not happy when his reopening led to the opponents making game with two overtricks when they should have languished in 2♦. The TD investigated and found that 2♦ showed 10+ and was forcing.

Ruling

Weighted score, 50% of 2♦+3, 50% of 3NT+2. With a 7-card suit it is not obvious to pass with the North hand (percentages suggested by a poll). Remember that North will not be told that East has a game-forcing hand when he only shows 10+.

A Cautious Invitation

Dealer South	♠ KQ4		
E-W vul.	♥ J64		
	♦ K7		
	♣ T9842		
♠ J9862		N	♠ A753
♥ A52		W	♥ K97
♦ T65		E	♦ QJ982
♣ 65		S	♣ J
	♠ T		
	♥ QT83		
	♦ A43		
	♣ AKQ73		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1♣
pass	1NT	X	3♣
pass	4♣	pass	pass
pass			

Facts

Pairs. Contract made. West called the TD because South had been thinking for quite some time before bidding 3♣, after which North had bid only 4♣ even with a maximum and 5-card support.

Ruling

Score stands. It is unclear what the break in tempo suggests, but bidding 4♣ seems to take both possibilities into account: If South has a subminimum, 4♣ should still be OK, and if he has a very sound hand, 5♣ should be easy.

However, at the same time North has passed 3NT, which is very likely the best contract at pairs. So the break in tempo did not help North bid 4♣.

Lead-Directing Question

Dealer North	♠ 76		
E-W vul.	♥ KQ98		
	♦ 953		
	♣ QT75		
♠ KQ4		N	♠ A832
♥ A532		W	♥ J
♦ QT8		E	♦ AJ742
♣ J92		S	♣ K43
	♠ JT95		
	♥ T764		
	♦ K6		
	♣ A86		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	pass	1♦	pass
1♥	pass	1♠	pass
2♣	pass	2NT	pass
3NT	pass	pass	pass


Facts

2♣ was not alerted. North asks specifically about the meaning of 2♣ after West's 3NT bid and is told that it is fourth suit forcing. South leads a club, and East makes 9 tricks. East then calls the TD.

Ruling

Score stands. It seems that South got the message from North's question, having a quite obvious spade lead. Due to the unfortunate lie of the minor suits, declarer only has 8 tricks on his own steam. So there is no damage – on the contrary! That will teach South not to use information from partner's silly questions.

Deciding whether to Play in 1NT or Not

Dealer West None vul.	♠ Q9543 ♥ J9642 ♦ 43 ♣ 7	♠ 87 ♥ T75 ♦ K8 ♣ Q98642
		♠ AKJT ♥ A83 ♦ AT52 ♣ J3
	♠ 62 ♥ KQ ♦ QJ976 ♣ AKT5	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	pass	1NT	pass
pass	2♣	pass	2♦
pass	2♥	X	pass
pass	pass		

Facts

Pairs. The contract was one off, but North called the TD because West had been thinking for a noticeable though not long time before passing his partner's 1NT opening.

Ruling

Score stands, but far from obvious.

Surely pass is a logical alternative for East, and if West is considering a bid and then passes, one way or the other he should have some values – he does not hold a very weak hand. So initially it looks like 2♥-1 undoubled.

However, if East passes instead of doubling, West might decide to balance with 3♣, though his passing over 2♦ indicates that he intended to defend 2♥; reopening against 2♠ would be more likely.

3♣ is likely to make when North has shown the majors (♠Q will be finessed, and South must sacrifice a trump trick to avoid declarer discarding a heart).

If going for the weighted score, remember to compare the weighted average of the matchpoints for -110 and -50 with the actual score for -100. It may turn out that N-S were not damaged at all. And considering that South might double 3♣ – North is unexpectedly weak for his actions, though his 2♣ bid is sensible against a strong notrump – most likely there is no damage from East's double.

Had 2♥-X gone down two, for sure the score should have been adjusted, and all of the above considerations would be very relevant in deciding the adjusted score.

Continuation after Jacoby 2NT

Dealer North None vul.	♠ 6 ♥ AKT8764 ♦ A94 ♣ 64										
♠ AK ♥ Q ♦ QJT7 ♣ T97532	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #8ebf42; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ J8743 ♥ 53 ♦ 8652 ♣ Q8
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ QT952 ♥ J92 ♦ K3 ♣ AKJ										

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♥	pass	2NT
pass	3♦	pass	3♠
pass	4NT	pass	5♣
pass	6♥	pass	pass
pass			

Facts

Pairs. East led the ♣Q, and declarer had 13 easy tricks when trumps were breaking. East then called the TD because 3♠ had been explained as showing first round control. Opener 3♦ had shown extras.

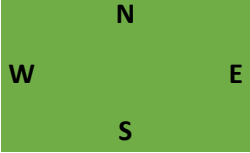
The TD determined that N-S had no clear agreement about responder's rebid, but that 3♠ most likely showed a suit with no indications about controls.

Ruling

Score stands. With the correct explanation, leading a spade becomes even harder.

West should have smelled a rat and doubled 3♠, but this is not directly relevant to the ruling. Note that West only got this opportunity because of the wrong explanation, so if West had indeed doubled, N-S would have been damaged from their own misexplanation.

A Revealing Hesitation

Dealer West E-W vul.	♠ K 4 ♥ 7 4 2 ♦ A J 7 ♣ A 8 7 6 3	♠ A 6 ♥ Q T ♦ 9 6 4 2 ♣ K Q T 9 4
♠ Q T 9 5 ♥ A J 9 6 3 ♦ Q T 8 ♣ 5		
	♠ J 8 7 3 2 ♥ K 8 5 ♦ K 5 3 ♣ J 2	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1♣	pass	1♠
pass	1NT	2♣	pass
2♥	pass	pass	pass

Facts

Pairs. The contract made 9 tricks. West thought for a short but noticeable time after 1♠. North felt this helped East enter the bidding. East said his club suit was strong enough to bid, and North's opening bid prevented him from bidding in the first round.

Ruling

Weighted score between 1NT down 1, 2, 3 or 4. Let the frequencies suggest the weights.

Passing is an obvious logical alternative for East, especially at this vulnerability, and knowing that partner holds close to 10 HCP helps a lot in bidding.

Remember to determine whether the weighted score will actually be in favour of the non-offending side before establishing it as the final ruling.

The Two Lowest Suits, but Which?

Dealer West All vul.	♠ 7 4 ♥ Q 9 6 4 3 2 ♦ Q 9 7 3 2 ♣ -	♠ J 9 5 2 ♥ T ♦ K 6 5 ♣ Q 9 7 5 4
♠ A Q T 8 ♥ K 7 5 ♦ T 4 ♣ K J T 8	<div style="background-color: #8ebf42; width: 150px; height: 80px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"> W E </div> N S	
	♠ K 6 3 ♥ A J 8 ♦ A J 8 ♣ A 6 3 2	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	2NT	pass	3♣
pass	3♦	pass	4♥
pass	pass	pass	

Facts

Pairs. Contract made. E-W called the TD because South explained 2NT as showing the minors. This might have helped North correct South's 3♣ bid. 2NT showed hearts and diamonds according to agreement.

Ruling

Score stands. Pass is not a logical alternative for North, as shown by a poll.

The misinformation effect must also be examined, as East would probably have bid 3♣ if 2NT had been explained as showing the red suits. If South then bids 3♦, nothing more will happen. However, with 17 HCP South will surely do more than that, and with East bidding 3♣ naturally, South will realize that North has the red suits, and the contract will very likely be 4♥ anyway. E-W are unlikely to sacrifice in 5♣ at this vulnerability.

An Outstanding Trump

Dealer West	♠ 7 4		
All vul.	♥ Q 9 6 4 3 2		
	♦ Q 9 7 3 2		
	♣ -		
♠ A Q T 8		N	♠ J 9 5 2
♥ K 7 5			♥ T
♦ T 4	W		♦ K 6 5
♣ K J T 8		E	♣ Q 9 7 5 4
		S	
	♠ K 6 3		
	♥ A J 8		
	♦ A J 8		
	♣ A 6 3 2		

Facts

North is declarer in 4♥ on the lead of a small spade. He has conceded three tricks when the following end position is reached with dummy (South) on lead:

Dealer West	♠ -		
All vul.	♥ Q 6		
	♦ 9 7		
	♣ -		
♠ T		N	♠ J
♥ 7			♥ -
♦ -	W		♦ 6
♣ K J		E	♣ Q 7
		S	
	♠ -		
	♥ A		
	♦ 8		
	♣ 6 3		

West objects because he has a trump and believes he should be given a trick.

Ruling

One trick for the defence. Of course, any sane declarer would draw the ♥A just in case. But unless it is obvious that declarer is aware of the outstanding trump, the careless play of a diamond is considered included in the possible "normal" plays.

Faster than the Speed of Light

Dealer North	♠ AK862		
All vul.	♥ A7		
	♦ K852		
	♣ 52		
		N	♠ QT543
♠ -		W	♥ KJ3
♥ T985			♦ AQ74
♦ J96			♣ 9
♣ AQJT63		S	
	♠ J97		
	♥ Q642		
	♦ T3		
	♣ K874		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1♠	pass	2♠
3♣	3♠	X	pass
pass	pass		

Facts

Pairs. North went down three and then called the TD because East had doubled faster than the speed of light. This might have helped West understand that East did not want anything but defend 3♠ doubled.

Ruling

Score stands. Pass is not a logical alternative for West, as shown by a poll. He is very light for his overcall, but East should already know about the 6-card club suit, and West's hand does contain some defense. If 3♠-X should make, West is probably down at least two in 4♣, which will be a terrible result even if undoubled.

Natural or Takeout?

Dealer West	♠ 7 6 4 3 2		
None vul.	♥ 9		
	♦ QT642		
	♣ KQ		
♠ KQJ8		N	♠ A9
♥ KQJ		W	♥ T872
♦ K		E	♦ J987
♣ AJT63		S	♣ 952
	♠ T5		
	♥ A6543		
	♦ A53		
	♣ 874		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	pass	1♦	1♥
X	2♠	pass	pass
X	pass	3♣	pass
3NT	pass	pass	pass

Facts

Pairs. North led a diamond to the ♦A, and South switched to the ♠10. This gave declarer the necessary entries to finesse twice in clubs, and so he went down.

West then called the TD. 1♦ had been correctly alerted and explained and transfer, after which 1♥ had been alerted and explained as takeout. Had West known that South had a natural overcall, he would have placed North with more strength and not finessed clubs a second time.

N-S had no clear agreement and decided that the natural meaning as intended by South was the correct explanation.

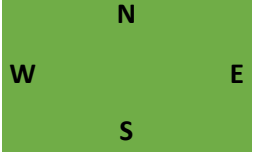
Ruling

Weighted score, e.g., 2/3 of table result, 1/6 of 2♠-X-2, 1/6 of 2♠-X-3. With a correct explanation, there is a reasonable chance that West would still double and that East would understand it as penalties. A higher weight could be considered, but the TD felt that E-W were not at all on firm ground about the meaning of West's second double if 1♥ had been explained as natural.

The line of play should not be affected by the explanation in this case – finessing twice if possible is equally normal with either explanation.

TD Cases from the Norwegian Bridge Festival 2017

4711

Dealer East E-W vul.	♠ Q3 ♥ AQJ96 ♦ 6 ♣ T9753	
♠ T5 ♥ K875 ♦ Q753 ♣ AJ8		♠ K972 ♥ T ♦ AKJT842 ♣ 2
	♠ AJ864 ♥ 432 ♦ 9 ♣ KQ64	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♦	1♠
X	2♥	3♦	3♥
X	pass	4♦	pass
pass	pass		

Facts

Teams. The contract made easily, but N-S called the TD after the hand was over. West had taken considerable time for his double of 3♥, and N-S felt that East could not remove the double under those circumstances.

Ruling

3♥-X+1. Half the players polled chose to pass with the East hand, and the hesitation clearly indicates doubts. 3♥ seems to make 10 tricks.

Transfer Raise Forgotten

Dealer East None vul.	♠ A 9 ♥ AKQT 8 2 ♦ J ♣ KQ 6 3										
♠ JT 7 ♥ 7 6 5 4 ♦ K 9 5 ♣ J 9 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #8ebf42; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 8 6 5 4 ♥ J ♦ AQT 8 ♣ AT 5
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ K 3 2 ♥ 9 3 ♦ 7 6 4 3 2 ♣ 8 7 4										

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
		1♠	pass
2♥	pass	2NT	pass
4♠	pass	pass	pass

Facts

Teams. The contract went one down, but East had forgotten the system. 2♥ was not a natural response, but showed spade support with just 0-6 points. According to the system, 2NT was a general invitation, and West accepted.

Ruling

1/3 of 4♥=, 1/2 of 4♠-X-2, 1/6 of 4♠-X-1. Clearly the missing alert has kept North out of the bidding. A poll showed that everybody would bid 4♥ on their own, either directly or via an initial double. 4♥ has good play with as little as ♣J10 in South.

What would happen if North doubled or bid 4♥? At the table, East bid 2NT for want of a better rebid. For sure he would pass after a double. West would bid 2♠, now assuming a less good hand opposite, and North would bid game. East would wake up, as he would after a direct 4♥ bid. He does not have much, but a poll showed that a majority would sacrifice, having confidence in North's bidding. There are some problems with trump control in 4♠-X, and in practice two undertricks seem more likely than one. This was supported by the frequency tables.

An Encouraging Hesitation

Dealer South	♠ A 8 7 6		
E-W vul.	♥ 8 4 2		
	♦ Q T		
	♣ J T 8 6		
♠ Q T 3		N	♠ J 9 5 4 2
♥ Q J		W	♥ 9 6
♦ A K 6 3		E	♦ J 8 4 2
♣ K Q 5 4		S	♣ A 9
	♠ K		
	♥ A K T 7 5 3		
	♦ 9 7 5		
	♣ 7 3 2		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			2♥
X	3♥	pass	pass
X	pass	3♠	pass
pass	pass		

Facts

Screens. The contract made easily on the lucky lie of the diamonds, but South was unhappy with West's second double because the tray had been on the other side for a long time after the first double. The 2♥ opening showed 8-11 HCP.

Ruling

1/3 of 3♥=, 2/3 of 3♥-1. While North could have been considering an invitational bid, most likely it is East who was responsible for the delay, and in fact it was. The second double is not obvious; pass is a logical alternative, which would lead to South declaring 3♥. The defence might go wrong in 3♥, and a weighted score is in order. The frequency tables should be consulted when determining the weights.

Yeslek, Not Yeslek

Dealer West	♠ AT		
None vul.	♥ AJT762		
	♦ 96		
	♣ 852		
♠ QJ764		N	♠ 53
♥ Q8			♥ K4
♦ 7		W	♦ AKJ852
♣ K7643			♣ AJT
			♠ K982
			♥ 953
			♦ QT43
			♣ Q9

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	pass	1NT	pass
2♣	2♥	pass	2♠
X	3♥	3NT	pass
pass	pass		

Facts

Screens. South mistakenly explained 2♥ as spades or the minors. West was told that 2♠ was pass-or-correct and doubled 2♠ to show spades. North guessed what had happened, and East bid 3NT, which went down four.

East called the TD because he expected a balanced hand in West. If West had been given the same explanation as East, she would have passed, as she had already promised invitational values. West would then know that East had an unbalanced hand, and 3NT would be dangerous.

Ruling

Score stands. If West is told that 2♥ and 2♠ are both natural bids, surely she will double for penalties (everybody did that in the poll). East had the correct information about system, and his claim is somewhat concocted anyway.

Just Natural after All

Dealer West	♠ AK		
All vul.	♥ QJ7643		
	♦ QJ8		
	♣ Q8		
♠ 8		N	♠ QT9765
♥ 982		W	♥ AT5
♦ A973		E	♦ T64
♣ KT652		S	♣ J
	♠ J432		
	♥ K		
	♦ K52		
	♣ A9743		

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
pass	1♥	1♠	1NT
pass	2NT	pass	3♣
pass	3♥	pass	3♠
pass	3NT	pass	pass
pass			

Facts

Screens. South explained 2NT as showing a six-card suit in hearts and 15+, 3♣ as a relay, and the rest as seminatural. West led a club, and declarer made 11 tricks.

On the other side of the screen, East did not understand why West had led South's suit instead of East's. It turned out that North had not alerted anything, considering all bids except 3♠ natural, and West called the TD. It was determined that North had given the correct explanation.

Ruling

10 tricks. Even if South might as well not have had a club suit, West is entitled to the correct explanation according to agreements. The actual club lead is understandable, and nobody in a poll would lead a club with the correct explanation.