

The background of the slide is a vibrant cosmic image featuring a complex network of galaxies in shades of blue, purple, and orange. Several bright, circular light sources, possibly distant stars or galaxies, are scattered across the field. In the lower-left corner, there is a prominent geometric overlay consisting of several overlapping diagonal bands in magenta, black, and grey. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is positioned on the right side of the slide, containing the title and subtitle text.

# Special Cases

Where the right question is the solution

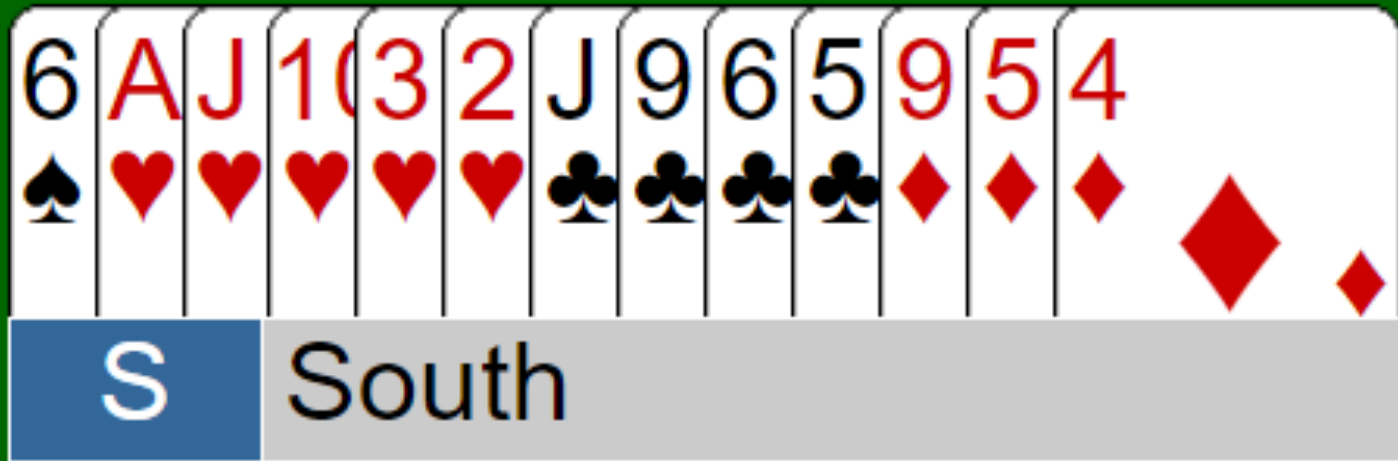
The background of the slide is a vibrant, abstract image of a cosmic scene. It features a complex pattern of swirling galaxies in shades of blue, purple, and orange. Overlaid on this background is a face-like pattern formed by the distribution of galaxies. Five small, circular images of Earth, showing blue oceans and white clouds, are positioned at the corners and intersections of the face-like pattern, resembling eyes and a mouth. In the bottom-left corner, there are two thick, diagonal lines, one black and one magenta, creating a modern, geometric design element.

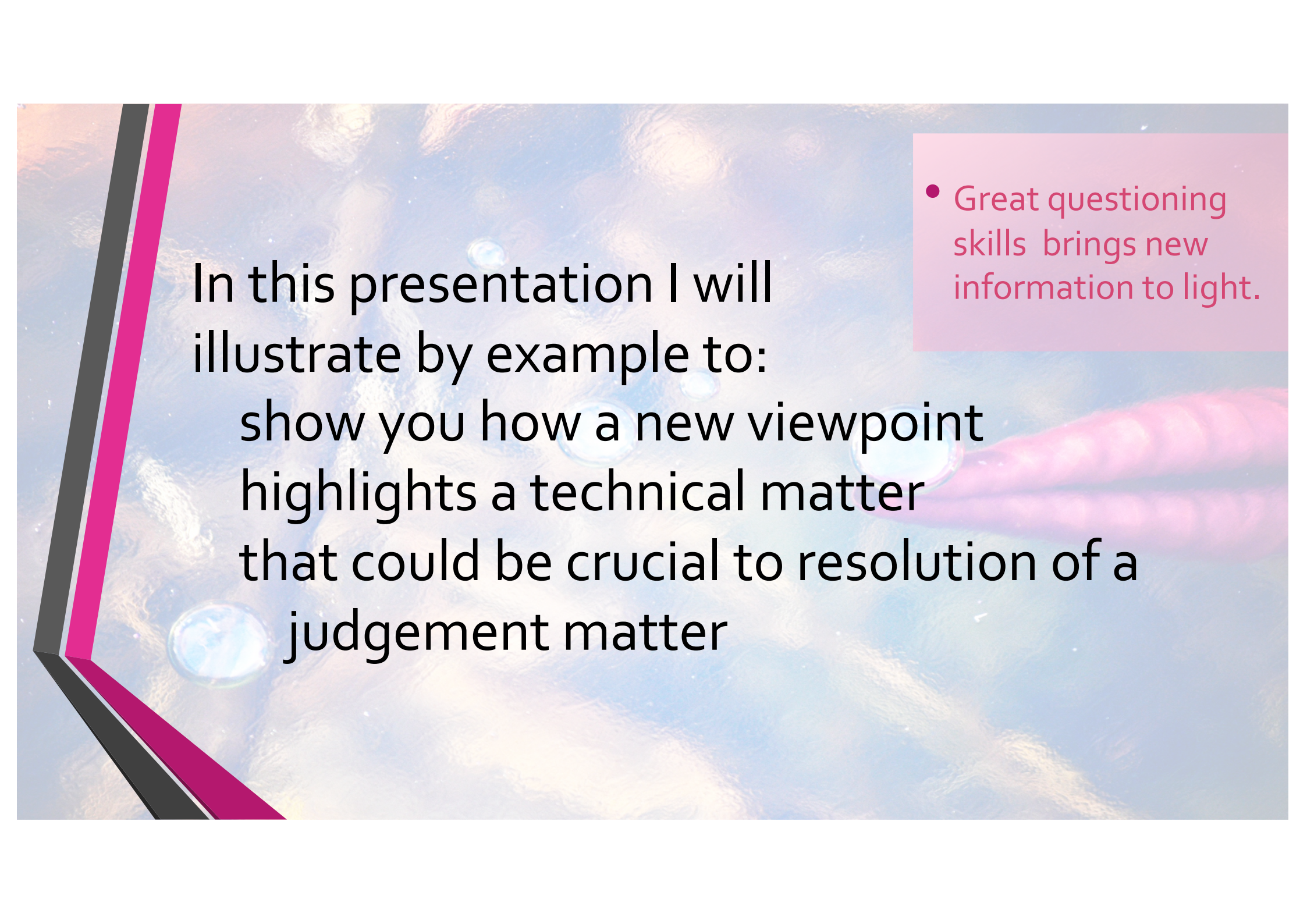
**A problem well put,  
is half solved.**

- The best TDs ask  
& listen to answers.

- Great questioning skills earn players' respect.

W	N	E	S
		P	P
1♣	1♦	1♠	?





In this presentation I will  
illustrate by example to:  
show you how a new viewpoint  
highlights a technical matter  
that could be crucial to resolution of a  
judgement matter

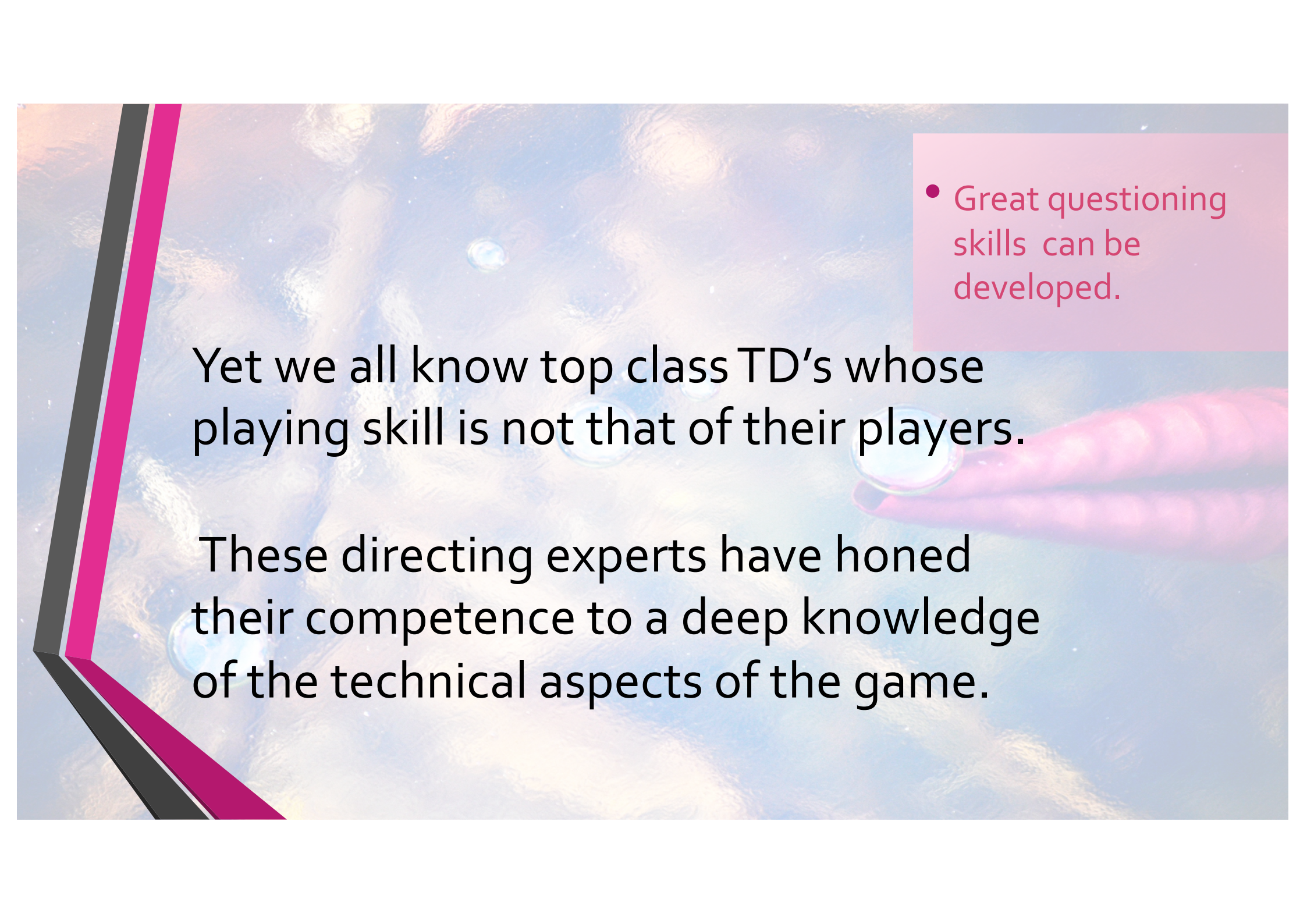
- Great questioning skills brings new information to light.



Do you agree that a TD with bridge playing expertise is better placed to:

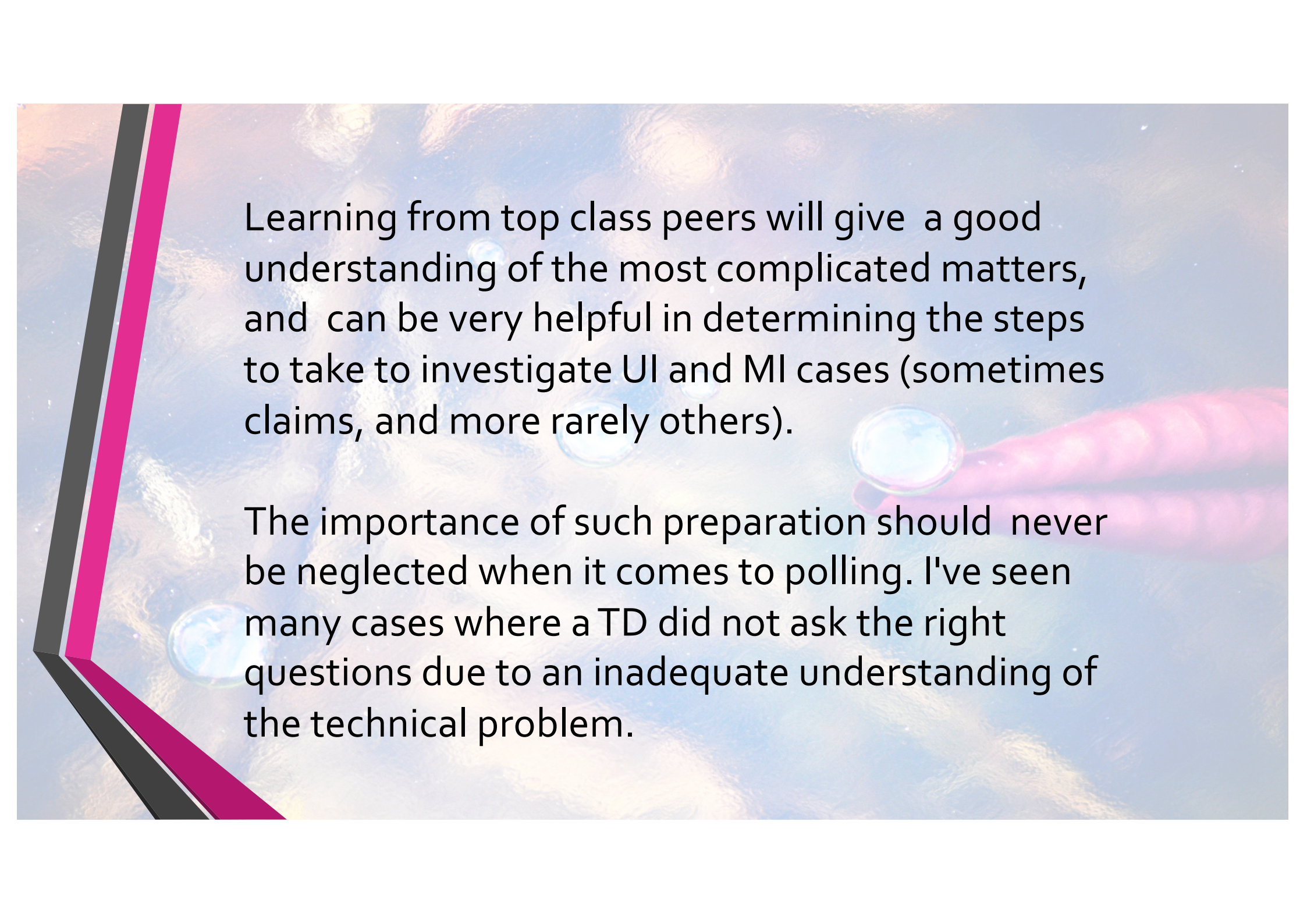
- Investigate technical details at the table?
- Quickly grasp arguments being presented?
- Anticipate problems ahead of players and colleagues?

- Great questioning skills anticipate & challenge

- 
- Great questioning skills can be developed.

Yet we all know top class TD's whose playing skill is not that of their players.

These directing experts have honed their competence to a deep knowledge of the technical aspects of the game.



Learning from top class peers will give a good understanding of the most complicated matters, and can be very helpful in determining the steps to take to investigate UI and MI cases (sometimes claims, and more rarely others).

The importance of such preparation should never be neglected when it comes to polling. I've seen many cases where a TD did not ask the right questions due to an inadequate understanding of the technical problem.

The background is an abstract, painterly composition. It features a soft, ethereal palette of blues, purples, and pinks. In the lower right, a pink, hand-like shape emerges, holding a small, transparent globe that reflects a blue and white sky. Several other similar globes are scattered across the scene, appearing to float in a misty or dreamlike atmosphere. The overall texture is soft and blended, with visible brushstrokes or painterly effects. In the bottom left corner, there are two thick, diagonal lines: one black and one magenta, which intersect to form a corner-like shape.

Let's now consider some cases

10

D

K10542
QKAKQ1082

♠♠♠♠♠
♥♣♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

N

MECKSTROTH

W	N	E	S
1♣	1♦	1♠	X
2♠	X	3NT	X
4♣	4♠	P	5♦
D	D	Y	D

J983
8754
AQ1082

♠♠♠♠
♥♥♥♥
♣♣♣♣♣♣

W

ZIMMERMANN

AQ7
K96743
J763

♠♠♠
♥♥♥♣♣♣
♦♦♦♦♦♦

E

NOWOSADZKI

6
AJ1032
J965954

♠
♥♥♥♥♥♥
♣♣♣♣♦♦♦♦♦

Other table: 4♦N+1  
 NS: USA2      13 IMPs  
 EW: SW

This is the auction South & West participated in – things were as you might expect with no alerts. On the North East side of the screen, 1S was alerted as no majors, and South's X was alerted as showing spades. 2S was alerted as strong cue. Thereafter the auction was a mess for all. The Director was called at the end of play about the different explanations on each side of the screen.

10 D

K10542QKAKQ1082  
 ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♥ ♣ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦  
 N MECKSTROTH

W	N	E	S
		P	P
1♣	1♦	1♠	X
2♠	X	3NT	X
4♣	4♠	P	5♦
D	D	Y	D

The Director ascertained these facts. East had explained correctly. NS play transfer responses here, NS had no clear path had the first alert been explained on both sides of the table.

Other table: 4♦N+1  
 NS: USA2 13 IMPs  
 EW: SWITZERLAND 34 IMPs

6AJ1032J965954  
 ♠ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦  
 S ZIA

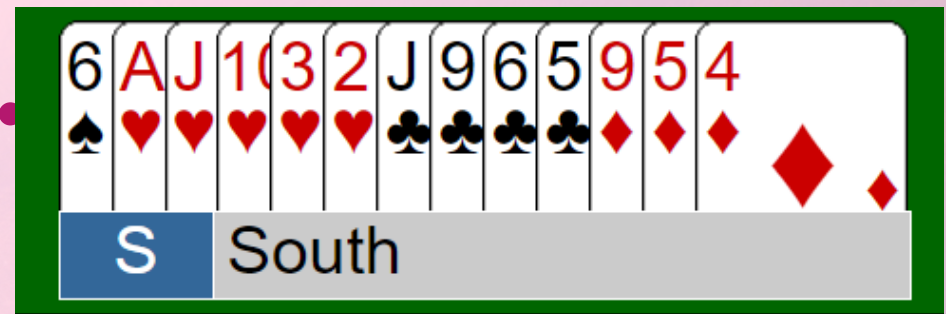
5♦x N NS: 0 EW: 0



# Where do we start to resolve this?

- The first infraction was the failure to alert 1S and was clearly misinformation. Players are not required to know their opponents methods.
- So let's start there:

W	N	E	S
		P	P
1♣	1♦	1♠	?



Establish what South would have bid had 1 ♠ been alerted -

and you can easily find two possibilities :  
Pass or 2♥ via a 2♦ transfer

Now follow the thread for both...

W	N	E	S
		P	P
1♣	1♦	1♠	P
2♠	?		

N	North
♠	K10542
♥	Q
♦	AKQ1082
♣	K

W	N	E	S
		P	P
1♣	1♦	1♠	2♦
2♠	?		

- What North would bid after 2S is not a question for the TD to answer. Here the players themselves and experts, using the methods of these NS players are an invaluable resource to the TD.
- Remember North/South are not at fault here, and do not need to come up with the perfect answer on the spot. They are simply entitled to have the right information and the TD must help determine which score to award.

10 D

North

West

East

South

W	N	E	S
1♣	1♦	P	P
2♠	X	1♠	2♦
?	?	3NT	?

Whatever North does, 3NT seems a normal next bid for East which might or might not end the auction?

Not for the TD to decide but to ask ... *are you getting the idea now?*

- a) After East bids 3NT, South and West will pass it out.
- b) What then? Would North double it or not?
- c) If yes, then West will run to 4♣, which might get doubled or not, and mind you: at this stage, East will be aware of his partner's mistake.
- d) Whether 4♣ get doubled or not, ask experts about the play in that contract.
- e) Ask experts whether there's any change NS will do anything different than pass or double over 4♣.
- f) If not, 3NT becomes the final contract and you need to interview experts about the final, possible outcomes
- g) Yes, double dummy the contract easily makes (please, take the good habit of NOT looking at the deep finesse analysis), but this does not apply even to the non-offenders, and EW are the offenders.
- h) So here are the steps to be taken:
  - a. You give your experts ONLY the information according by system (1♠ T/O without majors, 2♠ natural and strong);
  - b. You ask "South, what would you bid over 1♠?"
    - i. Your partner shows ♥, either naturally or through a transfer (2♦: you check NS CC before asking). As North, what would you bid over 2♠?
    - ii. Your partner passes. As North, what would you bid over 2♠?
  - c. You bid 3♦ over 2♠ and East bids 3NT, which is passed up to you. What would you do now?
  - d. You pass over 2♠ and East bids 3NT, which is passed up to you. What would you do now?
  - e. Say that you double 3NT, and after two passes West bids 4♣: what would you bid as North?
  - f. Say that your partner doubled 3NT, and after two passes West bids 4♣ which comes back to you: what would you bid as South?
  - g. You are East: you're declarer in 3NT and South leads the ♦4 (third and fifth). You pitch a heart from dummy, North wins the King, tables the ♥Q ducked all around, and continues with the ♦10. How would you play the hand from this point onward?

## 2018 European Open Teams

<p> ♠ K Q J 7 6 5  ♥ A 8 7 2  ♦ A 10 4  ♣ — </p>			
♠ A 4 ♥ 5 ♦ 9 8 5 3 2 ♣ Q 10 9 8 3	W N E S	♠ 10 9 3 ♥ Q 6 ♦ Q 7 6 ♣ J 7 6 4 2	♠ 8 2 ♥ K J 10 9 4 3 ♦ K J ♣ A K 5

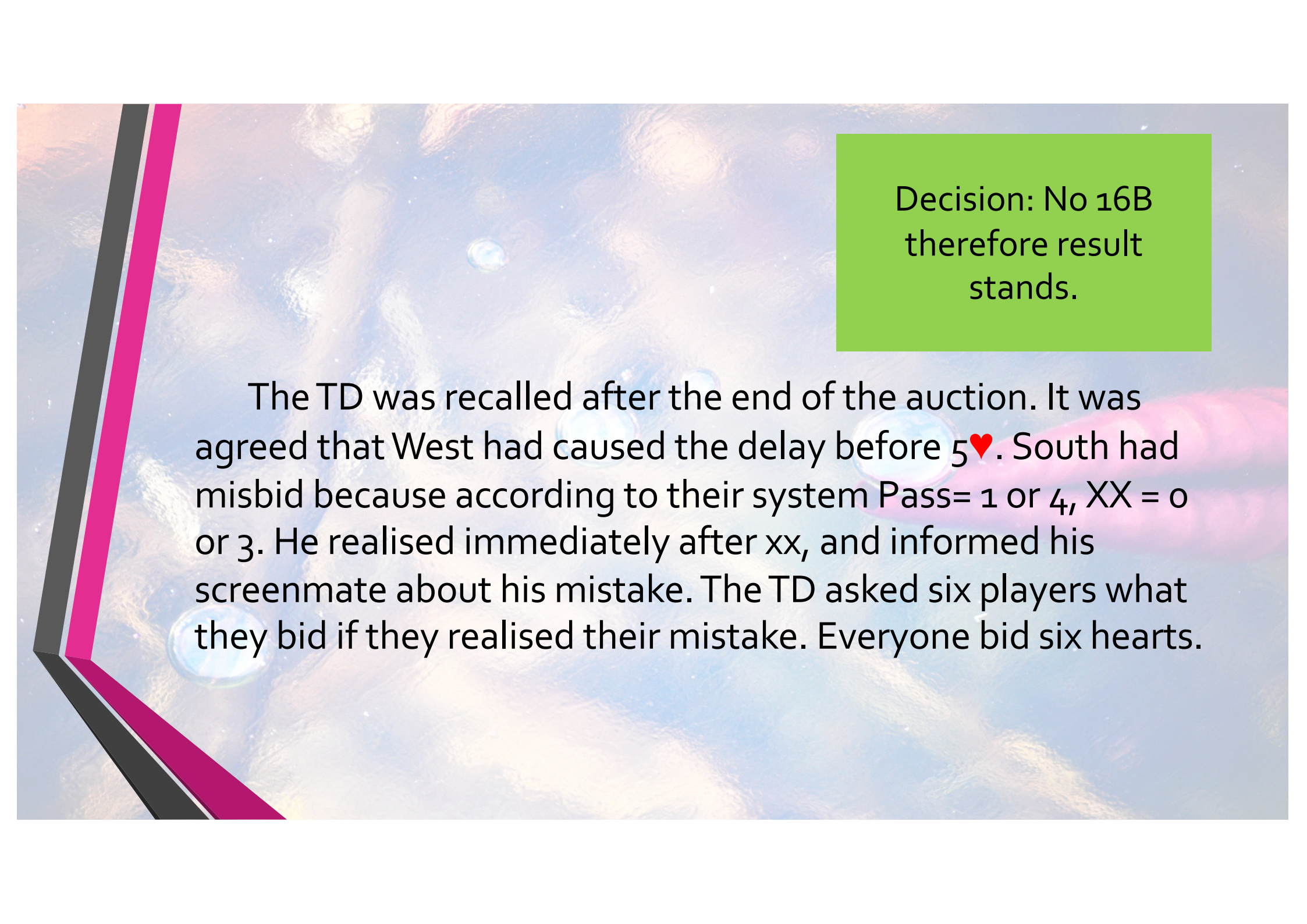
TD called at the end of the auction after South raised partner's slow 5♥ to 6♥

West	North	East	South
<i>Molenaar</i>	<i>Helness</i>	<i>Verbeek</i>	<i>Helgemo</i>
	1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	5 ♣ <sup>1</sup>	Dbl	Rdbl <sup>2</sup>
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

1. Exclusion Blackwood

2. 0-3

## Case 1: Murky Seaside Mistakes



Decision: No 16B  
therefore result  
stands.

The TD was recalled after the end of the auction. It was agreed that West had caused the delay before 5♥. South had misbid because according to their system Pass = 1 or 4, XX = 0 or 3. He realised immediately after xx, and informed his screenmate about his mistake. The TD asked six players what they bid if they realised their mistake. Everyone bid six hearts.

The TD was instructed to poll further, asking:

East West  
asked for a  
review

What do you bid if XX shows one keycard and partner bids 5♥?

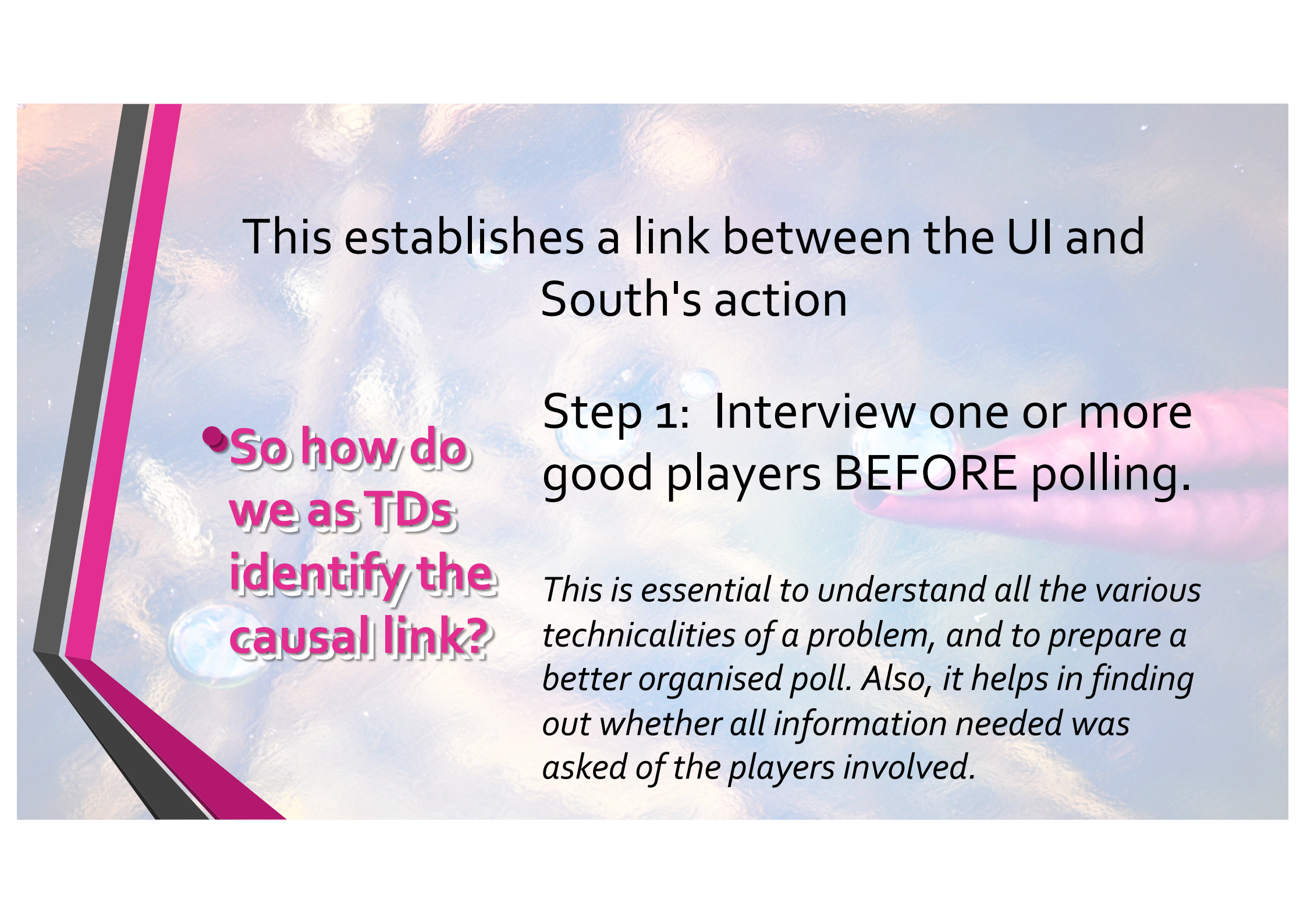
6 players replied *"I can't really understand partner's bid but I must trust my partner and pass"*, Pass is definitely a logical alternative to six hearts.

Does North's hesitation suggest six or five hearts? The hesitation could well have woken South to his mistake and led to the 6♥ bid.

**Decision: Result adjusted to 5♥ +1**

## Is that all?

- A player who jumps to the five level on the second round of bidding is clearly only interested in key-cards, but if so, it doesn't make sense for him to think after the answer.
- While he does think, his partner is certainly wondering about why he's thinking, and there's only one possible answer: he cannot believe what he's seeing, and is probably wondering whether South could have forgotten the system or not.
  - This is the UI South received.



This establishes a link between the UI and South's action

- So how do we as TDs identify the causal link?

Step 1: Interview one or more good players BEFORE polling.

*This is essential to understand all the various technicalities of a problem, and to prepare a better organised poll. Also, it helps in finding out whether all information needed was asked of the players involved.*

## Bermuda Bowl 2015

		♠ J 8		
		♥ A 9 7 6 5 3		
		♦ 10 5		
		♣ 8 6 5		
♠ A K 10 5 4 3			N	♠ Q
♥ K 4				♥ Q 2
♦ A 7	W		E	♦ K Q J 8 6 3
♣ J 7 2			S	♣ A Q 9 4
		♠ 9 7 6 2		
		♥ J 10 8		
		♦ 9 4 2		
		♣ K 10 3		

TD is called by North after a significant pause before 4♦.

## Case 2: Moments of Gold

West	North	East	South
<i>Klukowski</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Gawrys</i>	<i>Bakhshi</i>
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass
2 NT <sup>2</sup>	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♣	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Rdbl <sup>3</sup>	Pass
4 ♦ <sup>4</sup>	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♦	Pass	6 ♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1. Natural 11+ not game forcing
2. 13+ artificial game force
3. 1st round control clubs
4. 1st round control diamonds (6 min 20 screen delay)

The TD polled experts asking them:

- a) What would you bid over 4 diamonds?
- b) Say your partner hesitated before bidding 4 diamonds: what does that mean?
- c) Does the hesitation suggest bidding on?
  - d) If yes, why?
  - e) If no, why?
- f) However, the TD missed giving the experts a VERY important piece of information: West had not just pased before bidding 4 diamonds: he had taken 6'20 seconds!
- g) This happened because the TD did not think the length of the pause mattered, yet, after the case was over, ALL interviewed exerts agreed that size mattered that time.
- h) This would not happened if the TD had spoken to an expert BEFORE polling, presenting all facts (as MUST be done)
- i) This case determined the outcome of the Chennai's Bermuda Bowl.

D

W West

♠ 83

♥ KQ976

♦ AKJ9

♣ A10

N North

♠ KQJ109742

♥ 3

♦

♣ KJ74

WNES

4♠ PassPass

DbI Pass5♦ Pass

PassPass

S South

♠ 6

♥ A85

♦ Q106

♣ Q86532

E East

♠ A5

♥ J1042

♦ 875432

♣ 9

DbI

slow

Explain

0

0

5♦  
East

The Director was called after 5d made. He gathered the facts, polled, determined pass was a logical alternative and adjusted the score to 4S making.

Case closed?

No. A review was sought. Do you know why? And better still – do you know how to avoid being hauled to review yourself in future? What did our TD clearly not do?

The diagram shows a bridge hand with the following cards:

- North:** KQJ1097423 (Spades), KJ74 (Clubs)
- West:** 83 (Spades), KQ976 (Hearts), A10 (Clubs), AKJ9 (Diamonds)
- East:** A5 (Spades), J10429875432 (Hearts), 6 (Diamonds)
- South:** A85 (Hearts), Q86532 (Clubs), C106 (Diamonds)

A central card is the 6 of Spades.

**Trick Score Table:**

	W	N	E	S
4♠				
5♦				
P	X	P	P	P

**11 Tricks Claimed**

**5♦ E**      **NS: 0 EW: 0**

The TDs failed to appreciate an important part of Law 16:

- (b) A player may not choose a call or play that is demonstrably suggested over another by unauthorized information if the other call or play is a logical alternative.

In other words, they did not ask, the most important questions:  
What did the hesitation suggest?  
Was there a link between the UI and the 5♦ bid? Or  
Did the UI help East in choosing 5♦ over pass?



Had the TDs properly interviewed experts, they would have found out that ALL, without exception, thought that the Unauthorised Information DISCOURAGED bidding.

Specifically, one said: “the UI suggests my partner does not have the usual good hand for doubling (e.g. 1444, 0445, 1435) , but, instead, a hand which might well be excellent when defending, but not when playing (e.g. 2425, or any balanced hand with two diamonds, or even weak three diamonds). I’m still bidding (4NT), but I’m conscious of a potential risk. Without the UI I would have bid without even flickering”.

In other words, asking the right questions the TDs would have found out that they should have been called if East had (successfully) passed!

Interviewing an expert BEFORE polling would have avoided the mistake.

**Board 13**

Dealer North

Both Vul

				♠ J 10			
				♥ A K J 7 5			
				♦ K 8 6 4			
				♣ 9 8			
♠ A Q 6 5 4		N		♠ K 9 8 3 2			
♥ 3		W		♥ Q 4			
♦ Q 3		E		♦ 7 5			
♣ A Q J 10 7		S		♣ K 6 5 4			
				♠ 7			
				♥ 10 9 8 6 2			
				♦ A J 10 9 2			
				♣ 3 2			
West	North	East	South				
	1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♥				
3 ♥	4 ♥	Pass	Pass				
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass				

TD is called by South  
because West bid  
following a hesitation  
by East after 3♥.

Case 3: Obvious? Ever say Never.