

Subject of Appeal:	Tempo, Unauthorized Information	Case:	N8
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Event	Wernher Open Pairs	Event DIC	Candace Kuschner
Date	07/22/2016	Session	Second Qualifying


Auction

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♣	Dbl
1♥	Pass	2♣	2♠
3♣	Pass ¹	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Disputed Break in Tempo

Hand Record

Board	16	N	Susan Furchtenicht		
Dealer	W	♠	42		
		♥	AK1085		
Vul	E/W	♦	J54		
		♣	984		
W	Larry Ascher			E	Diana Tenery
♠	105			♠	QJ97
♥	Q9432			♥	(void)
♦	Q97			♦	1083
♣	QJ5			♣	AK7632
		S	John Lyddon		
		♠	AK863		
		♥	J76		
		♦	AK62		
		♣	10		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
3♣ by S	Made 3	N/S +140	♣ J

Facts Determined at the Table

West called the director following South's 3♦ call, saying that North had broken tempo prior to his third pass. N/S disputed the assertion. The director instructed for the auction and play to continue, and to call him back if E/W felt they were damaged by the result. Once play completed, E/W summoned the director again.

Director Ruling

While the hesitation was disputed by the players at the table, upon examination of the North hand, the directing staff believed that a BIT had likely occurred. Accordingly, as Pass was deemed to be a logical alternative, the score was changed to 3♣ by West, making three, E/W +110, per Laws 16B3 and 12C1e.

Director's Ruling	3♣ by W, Made 3, E/W +110
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The Appeal

N/S appealed the ruling, and all of the players attended the committee. South was adamant that his partner had not hesitated. He explained that his partner did not Double West's 1♥ bid because she was not strong enough to Double at the one level. South agreed that Double by North would have shown hearts, and would not have been responsive. He claimed that her hand did not justify bidding at any time, and that it did even merit the thought of bidding despite his strong actions during the auction.

E/W maintained that there was a marked hesitation at North's third turn to bid. They believed South had done full justice to his values by the Double and bid of his own suit following two passes by North during the first two rounds of the auction.

Committee Findings

The committee agreed with the director that a break in tempo was very likely to have occurred. In light of that, South's 3♦ bid was likely suggested by the UI, and Pass was a very likely alternative. Therefore, the Director's ruling was confirmed.

Committee Decision	3♣ by W, Made 3, E/W +110
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Committee Members

Chair	Gail Greenberg
Member	David Caprera
Member	Joann Sprung
Member	Fred King
Member	Tom Peters