

Subject of Appeal:	Tempo, Unauthorized Information	Case:	N9
---------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------	----

Event	Wernher Open Pairs	Event DIC	Candace Kuschner
Date	07/22/2016	Session	Second Qualifying


Auction

West	North	East	South
		1♦ ¹	1♥
2♦	4♥	Dbl ²	Pass
5♦	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: 4+ ♦, Unbalanced, 11+ HCP
2: Break in Tempo

Hand Record

Board	10	N	Chuck Said
Dealer	E	♠ Q1083	
		♥ Q1098	
Vul	Both	♦ (void)	
		♣ Q8642	
W	John Fout		
♠	964		
♥	J3		
♦	Q964		
♣	J1053	E	Stephanie Russo
		♠	AJ
		♥	52
		♦	A108532
		♣	AK7
		S	Elaine Said
		♠	K752
		♥	AK764
		♦	KJ7
		♣	9

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
5♦X by E	Down 2	N/S +500	♥ K

Facts Determined at the Table

North called the director after West displayed his hand as Dummy. Everyone at the table agreed that there had been a long hesitation by East prior to her Double.

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

Five players from team events were polled as to what action they would take with the West hand following the Double. Four of the five said they would pass.

Director Ruling

As the poll established that Pass was a logical alternative, per Laws 16B3 and 12C1e, the result was changed to 4♥X by South, making 4, N/S +790.

Director's Ruling	4♥X by S, Made 4, N/S +790
--------------------------	-----------------------------------

The Appeal

West appealed the director's ruling, and he and North attended the committee. West explained their systemic 1♦ opening showed four or more diamonds with an unbalanced hand. His 2♦ response promised anywhere from 4 HCP to a limit raise. He bid 5♦ because he knew his partner's hand was unbalanced, he had no defense, and based upon the auction he believed 4♥ was likely to make, so the sacrifice was a sound bridge decision.

North stated that he believed the pause before the Double conveyed doubt, and this unauthorized information suggested pulling the Double. He believed that Pass was a logical alternative with the West hand.

Committee Findings

The committee determined that the long hesitation suggested doubt and that pass was indeed a logical alternative. However, it also decided that the hesitation did not suggest that bidding on to 5♦ would be the winning action. There was nothing in West's hand to indicate 4♥ was going to make, nor was there any reason to believe that the UI suggested 5♦ was the right action. Therefore, it was determined that West's action was a legal gamble that happened to work. Accordingly, the committee restored the table result – 5♦X by East, down 2, N/S +500.

Committee Decision	5♦X by E, Down 2, N/S +500
---------------------------	-----------------------------------

Committee Members

Chair	Richard Popper
Scribe	Craig Allen
Member	Ron Gerard
Member	Ray Miller
Member	Ellen Kent