

Subject of Appeal:	Tempo	Case:	N8
---------------------------	-------	--------------	----

Event	Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs	Event DIC	Harry Falk
Date	11/29/2016	Session	Second qualifying


Auction

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♥
1NT ¹	2♥	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: 16-18 HCP

Hand Record

Board	21	N	Carl Berenbaum		
Dealer	N	♠	Q95		
		♥	10642		
Vul	N/S	♦	64		
		♣	QJ64		
W	Merril Hirsh			E	Monique Smith
♠	J76			♠	AK832
♥	A7			♥	J8
♦	AKQ9			♦	852
♣	A1053			♣	982
		S	Barbara Kepple		
		♠	104		
		♥	KQ953		
		♦	J1073		
		♣	K7		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
4♠ by E	Made 4	E/W +420	♥ K

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was called at the completion of play. N/S alleged that East broke tempo at trick eight. East said she "reacted" but did not think it was significant. The play had gone: opening lead of the ♥K was won by the ace. Declarer played the ace and king of spades; everyone followed. Declarer played the ace, king, queen of diamonds, with North trumping the last with the ♠Q. North continued with a club to the king and ace. Declarer now led the ♥7 from dummy, North played the 10, Declarer allegedly hesitated before playing the jack, then South won with the queen. South played a club, won by North's queen, leaving:

	♠ —	
	♥ 6 4	
	♦ —	
	♣ J 6	
♠ J		♠ 8 3 2
♥ —		♥ —
♦ 9		♦ —
♣ 10 5		♣ 9
	♠ —	
	♥ 9 5 3	
	♦ J	
	♣ —	

North returned a heart, giving declarer a ruff and sluff.

Director Ruling

The director determined that North was an innocent player who had been damaged by East's break in tempo when she had no demonstrable bridge reason for that action. Per Law 73F, he adjusted to the score which would have been achieved had North played his last club, 4♣ by East, down one, E/W -50

Director's Ruling	4♣ by E, Down 1, N/S +50
--------------------------	---------------------------------

The Review

E/W requested a review of the ruling. They did not think the hesitation was significant. Further, they stated that North's play could never be right. Declarer is known to have three remaining trumps. Since dummy has no hearts remaining, the play of a heart will lead to a cross-ruff and no tricks for the defense.

Panel Findings

The reviewer agreed with E/W's assertions. Law 73F could not apply - no damage resulted from the false inference North drew. North chose a play which could never have been correct. Law 73D1 further states that players draw inferences from unintentional variations in their opponents' tempo at their own risk. The table result of 4♣ by East, making four, E/W +420, was restored.

Panel Decision	4♣ by E, Made 4, E/W +420
-----------------------	----------------------------------

Panel Members

Reviewer	Matt Koltnow
-----------------	--------------