

Subject of Appeal:	Tempo/Unauthorized Information	Case:	N2
---------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------	----

Event	Nail Life Master Pairs	Event DIC	Ken Van Cleve
Date	11/25/2016	Session	First Qualifying


Auction

West	North	East	South
	1♠	Pass	2♠
Dbl	3♠	4♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	5♣ ¹	Pass
6♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Break in Tempo

Hand Record

Board	1	N	John Kranyak		
Dealer	N	♠	AKQ1096		
		♥	Q108		
		♦	42		
Vul	None	♣	54		
W	Gloria Bart			E	Les Bart
♠	(void)			♠	854
♥	K975			♥	A62
♦	KJ6			♦	AQ7
♣	AKQJ87			♣	10932
		S	Ken Kranyak		
		♠	J732		
		♥	J43		
		♦	109853		
		♣	6		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
6♣ by E	Made 6	E/W +920	♠ A

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was called at the end of the hand. North made a joke after West bid 4♠, and there was a break in the action. There was a dispute as to the length of time East took to bid 5♣. East said he is deliberate and taking medication, so he thought his 3-4 seconds was the normal tempo he uses for all bids. West did not give a specific time, but she did notice a break in tempo; she thought it was related to the distraction from North's joke. North described the length of time as 12-15 seconds. West said she chose 4♠ because she was considering bidding a grand

Additional Factors Determined Away from the Table

The TD gave the West hand to four players from a top-bracket team event. They were all able to agree with or accept West's actions. Over 5♣, two bid 6♣ and two passed. The four players all thought a slow 5♣ showed doubt and that he was considering 6♣.

Director Ruling

The TD agreed with East's assertion that he had showed extra values with his free 4♣ bid, but the poll results revealed that Pass was a logical alternative for West. Therefore, per Laws 16B1, 73C and 12C1c, the score was adjusted to 5♣ by East, making six, E/W +420

Director's Ruling	5♣ by E, Made 6, E/W +420
--------------------------	----------------------------------

The Review

E/W requested a review of the ruling. They felt that the break in tempo was not significant, and further that passing 5♣ would have been foolish. The reviewer checked with South (who had not expressed an opinion at the time) as to the length of the break in tempo. He described it as 9-12 seconds. The reviewer concluded that there had indeed been an unmistakable break in tempo. (Law 85)

The reviewer presented the West hand to three players as a bidding problem. All three chose or accepted West's actions. Over 5♣, all three passed, although one said he thought slam was more likely to make than not.

Panel Findings

West was in possession of UI from the unmistakable break in tempo which demonstrably suggested bidding 6♣. Passing 5♣ was found to be a logical alternative. The table ruling was upheld. The appeal was deemed to have merit only because of the possibility that the table director had not adequately collected all the facts before making his ruling.

Panel Decision	5♣ by E, Made 6, E/W +420
-----------------------	----------------------------------

Panel Members

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