

Subject of Appeal:	Tempo, Unauthorized Information	Case:	N12
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Event	NABC Fast Pairs	Event DIC	Harry Falk
Date	07/24/2014	Session	First Qualifying

Auction

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

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: Disputed Break in Tempo

Hand Record

Board	13	N	Brian McAllister		
Dealer	N	♠	KJ73		
		♥	QJ9763		
Vul	Both	♦	(void)		
		♣	542		
W	Stephanie Russo			E	Gloria McDevitt
♠	A			♠	6
♥	AK10542			♥	8
♦	96			♦	KQJ10875
		♣	10876	♣	KQ93
		S	Richard Morgen		
		♠	Q1098542		
		♥	(void)		
		♦	A432		
		♣	AJ		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
5♠X by S	Made 5	N/S +850	♥ A

Facts Determined at the Table

N/S summoned the director at the end of play. They explained that West had hesitated an estimated 20 seconds prior to doubling 4♠, and they believed the break in tempo influenced East's subsequent call. They believed without the hesitation that East would have passed, and South would have played in 4♠X, making five for +990. E/W agreed to a slight hesitation, but not one inconsistent with level of the auction and the activity that had already occurred.

Director Ruling

Based upon the auction and the content of the E/W hands, the director judged that a slight hesitation was not undue and that East's decision to pull the double was not demonstrably suggested by the hesitation. As the conditions of Law 16B were not met, the director ruled that the table result stood.

Director's Ruling	5♠X by S, Made 5, N/S +850
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The Appeal

N/S appealed the ruling, and they attended the hearing. They confirmed that they estimated the hesitation as being approximately 20 seconds. They also argued that if E/W were in a Forcing Pass situation, then the decision by East to pull the double was inconsistent with having passed initially.

Committee Findings

Since only N/S attended the hearing, the committee asked them to recreate the duration of the tempo of the auction while it was being timed. The recreation showed the hesitation to have only been 10 seconds. N/S could not provide any evidence that E/W had the agreement to use a Forcing Pass in this auction.

The committee judged that given timing of the hesitation did not constitute a break in tempo given the auction. Therefore, there was no UI at the table, and Law 16B did not apply. The director ruling was confirmed

Committee Decision	5♣X by S, Made 5, N/S +850
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Committee Members

Chair	Tom Carmichael
Member	Sam Marks
Member	Chris Moll