

APPEAL	NABC+ EIGHT
Subject	Unauthorized Information (UI) - Tempo
DIC	Harry Falk
Event	Wernher Open Pairs
Session	Second Qualifying
Date	July 28, 2009

BD#	12
VUL	N/S
DLR	West

Miriam Rosenberg	
♠	8 6
♥	K 9 7 5 2
♦	K J 7 6 2
♣	4

Rich Underwood		Summer 2009 Washington D.C.	Steve Paskin	
♠	Q J 9 5 2		♠	K T 4
♥	A J 6		♥	T 4
♦	5 3		♦	8
♣	8 3 2		♣	A K Q J T 7 5

Adriana Salinas	
♠	A 7 3
♥	Q 8 3
♦	A Q T 9 4
♣	9 6

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

Final Contract	5♥ doubled by North
Opening Lead	♣A
Table Result	Down 2, N/S - 500
Director Ruling	4♥ N down 1, N/S - 100
Committee Ruling	5♥ dbld N down 2, N/S - 500

(1)	Long hesitation described as a tank.
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The Facts: The director was called after the 4♠ bid and again after the play of the hand. The break in tempo (BIT) was agreed. E/W were playing support doubles. West's 1♠ bid showed four or more spades. East chose to bid 3♣ rather than making a support double.

The Ruling: The director judged that there was UI available that demonstrably suggested a call other than pass by East over 4♥. Pass was judged to be a logical alternative. Therefore, the result was adjusted to 4♥ by North down one, N/S minus 100 for both sides.

The Appeal: East contended that bidding 4♠ was clear-cut due to the favorable vulnerability, the fact that West knew that he could only have three spades, and the offensive nature of his hand. Furthermore, he believed the auction made it likely that West would have a five-card spade suit.

The Decision: The committee confirmed the BIT as acknowledged by E/W who attended the hearing. However, the committee determined that pass was not a logical alternative and accordingly restored the table result of 5♥ doubled by North down two, N/S minus 500, to both sides.

The Committee: Gail Greenberg (Chair), Chris Moll (Scribe) and Bob White.

Commentary:

Goldsmith I think passing was a logical alternative. If it were certain that 4♥ would make, then saving seems 100%, but not only is it not certain, in fact 4♥ is going down. Since East bid a non-forcing 3♣ on the previous round, he can't think now that 4♠ is a likely make, and at matchpoints, there is often a large difference between plus100 and minus 100. I'm with the director.

Polisner Here again, as in the previous appeals, Two and Three, a poll would have been helpful. It is not obvious to me that pass is not a logical alternative. I am not saying that many or most players would bid over 4♥, however, with the UI, it is a different story.

Rigal Again I'd like to emphasize the excellence of the pair of rulings, notwithstanding that the committee overturned the tournament director. In cases of doubt tournament directors are encouraged to rule for the non-offender; here the committee determined that there was no doubt, but I would much prefer to have the appeal than have offenders getting something for nothing by getting a favorable ruling they do not deserve. Not all hesitations lead to negative rulings.

Smith This case represents what is to me a disturbing trend. Why was no poll taken by the directors before making this ruling? Had that poll shown what the committee believed, the directors should have made a different ruling. Maybe upon hearing the result of such a directors' poll the aggrieved side would have realized that the correct ruling was given and no appeal would have resulted. Had the poll instead justified the original directors' ruling, again maybe there would not have been an appeal. And, if the appeal had gone forward anyway, at least the committee would have had more ammunition with which to make a judgment. And maybe that judgment would have been different in such a circumstance. Who knows? Not all judgment rulings are ideal for player polling, but the system is not well served if directors don't avail themselves of available opinions before making rulings of this kind.

Wildavsky I prefer the director's ruling to the committee's. There are many West hands where nine tricks are the limit for both sides. West's hesitation makes it a lot more likely that he holds a suitable hand for offense. I'd have liked to see the director take a poll and make it available to the committee.

Wolff Once West huddles and passes, East should be barred from bidding 4♠!