



The European Bridge League

Appeals Booklet 2008

**Including the Appeals from:
The European Team
Championships,
Pau**

Statistics from the Appeals Committee

14 cases were brought before the Appeals Committee in Pau. That is one more than two years ago in Warszawa, but since this tournament was quite a bit larger, the Board Appeal Ratio is exactly the same at 0.36 appeals per 1,000 boards.

7 appeals were from the Teams' tournaments and 13 from the Pairs, which is a perfect match for the number of boards played in each.

The Women had 3 cases and the Seniors only one (BAR: 0.23 and 0.16). There were 10 appeals in the Open series, 3 during the qualifying stage (0.22) and 7 in the Final stages (1.12).

This year, the quality of the directing was impeccable. Only in 4 cases did the Committee alter the Director's ruling. The deposit was kept 2 times.

The Appeals Committee heard all cases from within a group of eight members, with a visiting member once to fill up the numbers when the Committee had to be split in order to accommodate 4 cases on the same day. Contrary to previous practice, Committees of more than 5 people were used, bringing the average to exactly 5 members per Committee. Not a single Committee had to be convened composed of less than 4 members.

Board-Appeal Ratio's (BARs)

In order to compare the rates of appeals, the EBL Appeal Committee have developed the notion of a Board-Appeal Ratio. In essence, this is the number of appeals that are heard in relation to the number of boards played. It is expressed as the number of appeals per 1,000 boards played. The BARs have settled at a low number in recent years.

BARs throughout the years:

Team championships:

Malta 1999	0.70
Tenerife 2001	0.81
Salsomaggiore 2002	0.56
Malmö 2004	0.33
Warszawa 2006	0.36
Pau 2008	0.36

Open championships:

Menton 2003	0.32
Tenerife 2005	0.26
Antalya 2007	0.22

Total number of boards:

38,880 boards have been played during these championships (Warszawa 36,432).

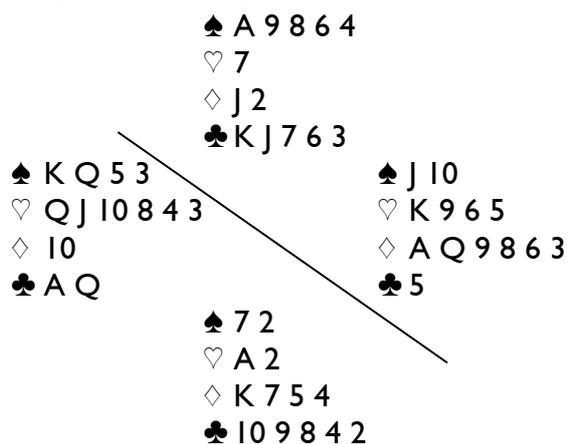
Appeal No. 1
Hungary v Belarus

Appeals Committee:

Jens Auken (Chairman, Denmark), Grattan Endicott (England), Guido Ferraro (Italy), Jean-Paul Meyer (France), Barry Rigal (England), PO Sundelin (Sweden)
 Herman De Wael sat in on the meeting to act as Scribe

Open Teams Qualifying Round 6

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
<i>Timakhovich</i>	<i>Hégedüs</i>	<i>Zhukov</i>	<i>Honti</i>
1♥	2♥	4♣	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

Comments: 2♥ ♠ and a minor
 4♣ see below

Contract: Four Hearts, played by West

Lead: ♠4

Play: ♦10 to the Ace, ♦Q run

Result: 12 tricks, NS -680

The Facts:

4♣ was explained by East to North as showing Heart support and Club shortness, while West explained it to South as Heart support and a club suit. South called the Director when dummy was spread and again at the end of the hand, stating that he would have bid 4NT if he had been told 4♣ showed a club singleton.

The Director:

Checked the System Card of East/West and could not find anything regarding this sequence, so he decided to rule that South had been misinformed.

The Director considered that South had not bid 4♦ or 5♦, so he ruled that South would not have bid 4NT either.

Ruling:

Result Stands

Relevant Laws:

Law 40B4, I2B1

North/South appealed.

Present: All players except West and both Captains

The Players:

North explained that bidding 4♦ or 5♦ was less indicated than 4NT would have been if the 4♣-bid had been explained correctly to South. With the explanation received, South "knows" there is a diamond fit, but if it's explained as short, it's more probable that the fit is in clubs. When asked whether he did not consider that by bidding 4♦ he could be playing 4♦, North replied that East/West would certainly bid 4♥.

East/West mentioned that South might bid 4NT after 4♦ and 4♥, but North retorted that served no purpose, since they already knew of the diamond fit. Bidding 5♦ is then once again up to South, so the problem is exactly the same.

The Committee:

Confirmed that South had been misinformed, and considered North/South had been damaged as a result.

Not bidding 4♦ was considered an error, but that is irrelevant, since even after bidding 4♦, North/South can never end up in 5♣.

If 4♣ is explained correctly to South, a bid of 4NT is clear-cut, and North/South will reach 5♣. North/South should be compensated for that damage.

There was some discussion afterwards, if East/West would bid 5♥. On this subject, the following considerations were made:

- East would continue to believe he had shown his hand, and he would double to show defensive values. The doubleton spade looks particularly bad in playing 5♥.
- West might continue to believe his partner held real clubs, so he would not remove 5♣X.
- East/West, as offending side, should have no benefit of the doubt in this case.

For those reasons, the Committee felt there was no reason to include any weight for a contract of 5♥.

Five clubs is normally 2 off, losing a spade, two minor aces and a diamond ruff.

The Committee's decision:

Director's ruling adjusted:

Score adjusted to 5♣X by North, making 9 tricks, NS -300

Deposit: Returned

Note: Under the 2007 Laws, the Director is instructed to consider weighting the various possible outcomes of the hand, as set out in Law 12C1(c). The Committee, in exercising the powers of the Director, decided to rule that there was no substantial likelihood of a contract of 5♥, which explains why they too, despite ruling under Law 12C1(c), arrived at a score adjustment with just one score.

Note:

The table recording shows the full play as:

West	North	East	South
♠3	♠4	<u>♠10</u>	♠2
<u>♥Q</u>	♥7	♥5	♥2
♦10	♦5	<u>♦A</u>	♦8
		♦Q	

Appeal No. 2
Israel v Italy

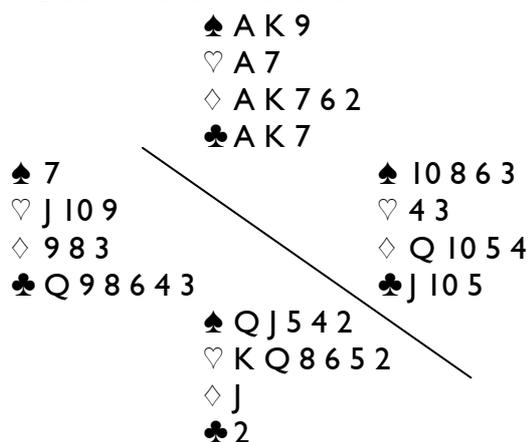
Appeals Committee:

Jens Auken (Chairman, Denmark), Grattan Endicott (England), Jean-Paul Meyer (France), Barry Rigal (England), PO Sundelin (Sweden)

Herman De Wael sat in on the meeting to act as Scribe

Open Teams Qualifying Round 6

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Roll</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Bareket</i>
	2♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	6♥
Pass	6NT	Pass	7♠
All Pass			

- Comments:**
- 2♣ artificial strong (23+)
 - 2NT positive with hearts (2♦ negative; 2♥ double negative)
 - 3♦ natural
 - 3♠ natural (4+ cards)
 - 4NT RKCB agreeing ♠
 - 5♣ 0 or 3 (of 5) aces
 - 5♦ asks for ♠Q
 - 6♥ ♠Q and ♥K

Contract: Seven Spades, played by South

Lead: ♣4

Result: 13 tricks, NS +1510

The Facts:

West called the Director at the end of the bidding to reserve his rights. 6NT was bid after a break in tempo. North/South agreed to this. East/West asked for a ruling at the end of the match, claiming that the bid of 7♠ had been suggested by the hesitation. North/South maintained that 6NT was a grand slam try, and that South had no problem in accepting it.

The Director:

Did not find that 6NT was so evidently a grand slam try, and ruled that South should not have bid seven.

Ruling:

Score adjusted to 6NT by South, making 13 tricks, NS +1020

Relevant Laws:

Law 16B

North/South appealed.

Present: All players and both Captains

The Players:

North/South, through their captain, explained why 6NT had to be invitational. They asked the question as to why North asked about the ♠Q, and proposed four alternative reasons:

- 1) He wanted to choose between 6♠ and 6NT. Impossible, since with the positive response, he still selected 6NT.
- 2) He wanted to choose between 5♠ and 6♠. Impossible, since that would mean he would be passing 5♠, and possibly play there with a combined 38 count (South being unlimited, having bid 2NT)
- 3) He changed his mind. "This is a killer for good bridge."
- 4) He wanted to invite to seven.

South added that bidding 5♣ and 6♥ were automatic responses, and that over 6NT he could finally show his extras.

South told the Committee that West had told him at the table that he saw no problem in accepting the invitation to a grand slam with the 6-5 distribution.

Asked why 4NT showed the spade fit, North replied that 4♥ would have been forcing. North stated he would not have bid 5♦ and 6NT without all the aces.

North further said he was not sure how the hesitation could help South.

West told the Committee that North had said at the table that 6NT had been a grand slam try, and that he had called it a clear invite. They had agreed at the time, but had decided at the end of the match to call the Director anyway. West wrote down one possible hand for North (AKx J AKQ10xxx AK) in which North would be asking for the ♠Q in order to play 6NT.

The Committee:

considered the following lines of argument.

North's delayed sequence (trump queen ask and six no-trump bid) could theoretically be construed as follows:

- 1) Sign-off, planning to stay out of slam after a different response
- 2) Sign-off, planning to play a different small slam after a different response
- 3) Grand slam try for spades

In order for the adjusted score to stand, the Committee had to accept the following chain of reasoning. There has to be a break in tempo, an action demonstrably suggested by that break, and a logical alternative to the action suggested by that break in tempo. The tempo break was confirmed by all.

The question was whether that break demonstrably suggested bidding seven.

The appellants argued that asking for the trump queen and following up with 6NT denied a hand that simply wanted to play 6NT. Had North held that hand he would have bid slam over 3♠. Equally, the spade queen (per se) could not be the critical card for 6NT, as opposed to 6♠. South could just as easily hold the ♣Q as the ♠Q, in which case 6NT would still make. Thus the auction had to be a grand slam try, and South could do what he liked.

The other side had suggested that there might be a key-card missing, with North holding: AKxx J AKQxxx AK, or AKxx A AKQxxx KQ. With those hands North might have opted for 6NT as opposed to 6♠. But he would have known what to do after the response, so a slow 6NT made the grand slam try more likely than the selection of the right small slam. However, the response to that argument would be that with one of the hands quoted above, North would not have had an easy choice as to which slam to play; so a slow 6NT bid did not DEMONSTRABLY suggest the grand slam try.

The Committee realised that there are sound reasons (of precedence) for not allowing the partner of a Blackwood bidder to over-rule a slow decision by his partner. Ultimately the Committee determined that this case could be distinguished from such auctions. The selection of the final contract was in a strain other than the one indicated by the previous three rounds of bidding. Accordingly the fact that this selection was slow simply indicated that North had a problem at his final turn. This could have been whether to play 6♥, 6♠ or 6NT. Since it was not the tempo on its own that had demonstrably suggested North was contemplating a Grand Slam, but the logic of the earlier auction, South was free to do what he wanted. (Clearly, if North had bid 6♠ slowly at his final turn, it would have been demonstrably suggested he was thinking of bidding a Grand Slam.)

The Committee believed that the break in tempo did not demonstrably suggest bidding on.

The Committee's decision:

Original table result restored

Deposit: Returned

Appeal No. 3
Austria v Wales

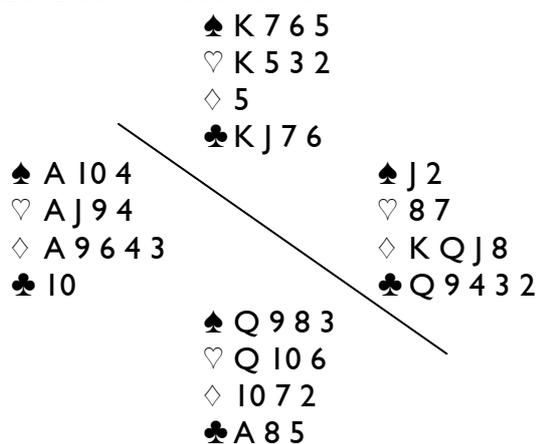
Appeals Committee:

Jens Auken (Chairman, Denmark), Grattan Endicott (England), Guido Ferraro (Italy), Jean-Paul Meyer (France), Barry Rigal (England), PO Sundelin (Sweden)

Herman De Wael sat in on the meeting to act as Scribe

Open Teams Qualifying Round 6

Board 20. Dealer West. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
<i>Goodman</i>	<i>Fischer</i>	<i>Thomas</i>	<i>Saurer</i>
1♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
Pass	Dble	Redble	3♠
4♣	Pass	5♦	Dble
All Pass			

Comments: 1♦ 5+ cards
 3♦ pre-empt

Contract: Five Diamonds Doubled, played by West

Lead: ♠6

Play:	West	North	East	South
	♠A	♠6	♠2	♠Q
	♠4	♠K	♠J	♠3
		♥x		

Result: 11 tricks, NS -750

The Facts:

4♣ was explained by West to South as a game try with short clubs, while East had not alerted it and (twice) explained it to North as natural.

North called the Director at the end of the hand, claiming she would have returned a trump at trick 3 and defeat the contract.

The Director:

Considered that North was able to count out Declarer's hand: the ten of spades is known, because partner played the Queen, so there are 3 spades there. Since South has bid spades on a four card suit, there cannot be 4 hearts there, so declarer has four of them. Added to the five diamonds, that leaves room for at most one club. North had not been misinformed.

Ruling:

Result Stands

Relevant Laws:

Law 40B4

North/South appealed.

Present: All players and the Captain of North/South

The Players:

North stated that if she knew there was a club singleton, she could have led the diamond. When she was in with the ♠K, she asked again, and again received the answer that 4♣ had been natural.

West stated that 4♣ had been the only game try available to him. He now realised that it would have been better to double, but at the time he believed it was ambiguous. They had already passed out 3♦ and they had never discussed how the bidding would go after that.

East told the Committee that he had not thought it could have been short, or he would not have accepted the game try.

East/West added that there had been time troubles during the match. There had been just one minute left on the clock during the bidding of this board, the last one of the set. Presumably that was significant in judging the defence.

The Committee:

Wondered why the diamond had not been led in the first place. The Director had made a correct analysis, and there was no reason to change the ruling.

The Committee's decision:

Director's ruling upheld.

Deposit: Returned

Appeal No. 4 Italy v Wales

Appeals Committee:

Jens Auken (Chairman, Denmark), Grattan Endicott (England), Jan Kamras (Sweden), Jean-Paul Meyer (France), Barry Rigal (England), PO Sundelin (Sweden)

Herman De Wael sat in on the meeting to act as Scribe

Women's Teams Round 3

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

	♠ Q 5 3	
	♥ —	
	♦ A Q J 9 8 6 2	
	♣ A J 9	
♠ K 9 7	/	♠ 8 6 2
♥ K 2	/	♥ Q 9 8 7 5 3
♦ 3	/	♦ K 10
♣ K Q 8 7 6 5 2	/	♣ 10 4
	♠ A J 10 4	
	♥ A J 10 6 4	
	♦ 7 5 4	
	♣ 3	

West	North	East	South
<i>Patrick</i>	<i>Ferlazzo</i>	<i>Gardner</i>	<i>Manara</i>
	1♦	Pass	1♥
3♣	3♦	3♠	4♣
4♠	4NT	Pass	6♦
All Pass			

Comments: 1♦ Precision: 11-16
 3♣ see below
 4NT Turbo: 0, 2 or 4 key-cards

Contract: Six Diamonds, played by North

Lead: ♠6

Result: 11 tricks, NS -100

The Facts:

3♣ was intended as natural by West, and not alerted. East alerted it and explained it as clubs and spades. West understood East's 3♠ as natural and raised it. North called the Director at the end of the hand because of the different explanations. South stated she would not have bid 6♦.

The Director:

consulted East/West's System Card and found nothing to support East's explanation. He therefore ruled that North had been misinformed, but that South had received correct

information. He asked North if she would have bid the same way with correct information. North told him she would also have bid 3♦, and the Director ruled that North/South had not been damaged by misinformation.

Ruling:

Result Stands

Relevant Laws:

Law 40B4

North/South appealed.

Present: All players and the Captain of North/South

The Players:

North concurred that she had told the Director that she would also have bid 3♦, and she continued to believe she would have, but she told the Committee she never said she would also have bid 4NT after 4♠. She would have been able to see something was wrong: East had not bid over 1♦, yet now introduced a new suit at the three-level.

North/South explained the Turbo system: 4NT shows an even number of key-cards (and slam interest), 5♣ an odd number with a club control. Pass would have been forcing and Double for penalties.

East/West explained they were not experienced at international level. They were a last-minute replacement as a third pair. They had agreed to play two-suiters, but not in this sequence. East had made a mistake.

The Committee:

found that it was not clear what North would have bid over 4♠ with the correct information, but since 6♦ was a fine contract, defeated only by the bad breaks, North/South had not been damaged by the (clear) infraction of East's misexplanation. Law 12B1 defines damage as a table result that is inferior **because of** an infraction.

The Committee then considered whether to give East/West a separate adjustment based on a fraction of 4♠X (or even 5♦), but in the end decided not to.

The Committee's decision:

Director's ruling upheld.

Deposit: Returned

Appeal No. 5
Poland v Italy

Appeals Committee:

Jens Auken (Chairman, Denmark), Herman De Wael (Scribe, Belgium), Philippe Cronier (France), Barry Rigal (England)

Open Teams Final Round I

Board 11. Dealer South. None Vul.

♠ J 9 7 6			
♥ A Q 4			
♦ 10 7 2			
♣ 6 5 2			
♠ 5 3 2		♠ A K 4	
♥ J 10 9 5 3		♥ K 2	
♦ 6 5		♦ A K 8 4 3	
♣ 10 9 8		♣ Q 7 3	
		♠ Q 10 8	
		♥ 8 7 6	
		♦ Q J 9	
		♣ A K J 4	

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Jagniewski</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
Pass	1♥	Dble	1♣
Pass	INT	Pass	1♠
2♥	All Pass		Pass

Comments: 1♣ Polish
 1♥ transfer to Spades
 Dble Take-out over Spades
 1♠ 3 cards spades

Contract: Two Hearts, played by West

Result: 7 tricks, NS +50

The Facts:

South called the Director at the end of the hand, having reserved his rights during the bidding. West had agreed that the tray had taken some time before returning with INT-Pass. East also admitted that he had thought for about 30 seconds.

The Director:

Asked a number of players, none of whom would have bid 2 Hearts.

Ruling:

Score adjusted to INT by North, making 7 tricks, NS +90

Relevant Laws:

Law 40B4, 12B1, 12C1(c)

East/West appealed.

Present: All players except East, both Captains and the Coach of North/South

The Players:

West explained that he knew his partner had 18-19. He had not bid INT at his first opportunity, which would have shown 15-17. Since North/South stopped in INT, partner had to have more values than that.

To let them play in INT, West stated, was handing them a certain 90 or 120.

West had never bid because of a hesitation, and he thought calling the Director here was not the right spirit to be playing bridge in.

When asked to explain a bit more about their system, West explained that a straight INT would show 15-17, and 2♥ would have been natural. A second double would be a normal positive bid, but East already knows that West is weak.

West added that he did not know if it was his partner who had been hesitating, maybe it was the INT bidder after all.

South recounted that he had reserved his rights during the bidding, and that West had agreed that there had been a break in tempo. He then called the Director at the end of the hand (note: this is completely in accordance with the procedure that the new Laws advise).

South explained that 1♣ was some form of Polish, and that the 1♠ bid confirmed both that it had been the weak option (12-14, balanced) and that he held 3 spades.

North/South confirmed that South had at maximum 14 points, North at maximum 11.

The Committee:

Agreed with West that he could infer that East had a strong hand (18-19), or at the very least a good heart fit. However, bidding 2♥ is not without a certain risk. North/South might reopen into game or partner might over-compete. West's actions were probably correct in abstract, but the hesitation turned the 90% action into a 100% one. East should realise that a break in tempo carries the risk partner might not be allowed to take the correct action and West should realise that he should "bend over backwards" when in the possession of Unauthorized Information.

The Committee's decision:

Director's ruling upheld.

Deposit: Returned

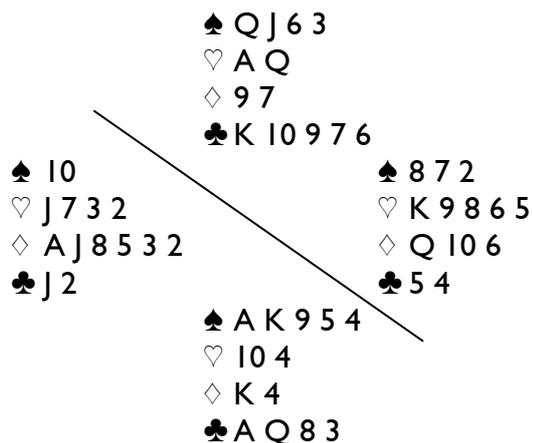
Appeal No. 6
Netherlands v Norway

Appeals Committee:

Jean-Paul Meyer (Chairman, France), Grattan Endicott (and Scribe, England), Guido Ferraro (Italy), PO Sundelin (Sweden)

Open Teams Final Round I

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.



West	North	East	South
<i>Brogeland</i>	<i>Drijver</i>	<i>Lindquist</i>	<i>Brink</i>
Pass	1♣	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	4♣	Pass	6♠
All Pass			

Contract: Six Spades, played by South

Lead: ♦A

Result: 12 tricks, NS +1430

The Facts:

4♣ was explained by North to East as showing 4225, while South described it to West as 4441. West led the ♦A, going for a ruff.

The Director:

Established that North's explanation had been the correct one. The Director asked West what he would have led, and West answered that he did not know. After consultation, the Director decided to adjust the score.

Ruling:

Score adjusted to 6♠ by South, making 11 tricks, NS -100

Relevant Laws:

Law 40B4, 12B1, 12C1(c)

North/South appealed.

Present: All players and both Captains

The Players:

North/South suggested that the $\diamond A$ was still quite a likely lead without the misexplanation. No allowance had been made for this. West repeated that the only fair thing to say was that he did not know what he would have led with a different explanation.

The Committee:

Agreed that West was damaged by the misexplanation. After brief consideration that a weighted score was a possibility, decided against it. The Committee found no reason to vary the Director's decision.

The Committee's decision:

Director's ruling upheld.

Deposit: Returned

Appeal No. 7
Poland v Italy

Appeals Committee:

Jens Auken (Chairman, Denmark), Herman De Wael (Scribe, Belgium), Philippe Cronier (France), Barry Rigal (England)

Open Teams Final Round I

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ —	♠ A Q J 6 3	♠ K 10 8 5 2
♥ A Q J 7 5 4 3	♥ 8 6 2	♥ K 10 9
♦ 10 4 2	♦ K Q J 9	♦ —
♣ 8 7 4	♣ 9	♣ A 10 6 5 2
	♠ 9 7 4	
	♥ —	
	♦ A 8 7 6 5 3	
	♣ K Q J 3	

West	North	East	South
<i>Versace</i>	<i>Jagniewski</i>	<i>Lauria</i>	<i>Kwiecien</i>
3♥	3♠	4♥	4♠
Pass	5♣	Pass	5♦
Pass	5♠	Dble	Pass
Pass	6♦	Dble	All Pass

Contract: Six Diamonds doubled, played by South

Lead: ♥A

Result: 11 tricks, NS -200

The Facts:

East called at the end of the auction, complaining about a break in tempo on the South/West side of the screen after 5♠X. East/West described the break in tempo as having lasted 2 or 3 minutes, while North/South thought it was only 20 or 30 seconds. The BBO operator estimated it at about 1 minute.

The Director:

Ruled that there had been a break in tempo that should be counted as Unauthorized Information. It was clear to him that North knew his partner had been thinking. He considered that the pause might suggest pulling to 6♦. He gave the bidding sequence to 5 high level players and only 3 of them would have passed - therefore passing was a Logical Alternative.

Ruling:

Score adjusted to 5♠X by North, making 9 tricks, NS -500

Relevant Laws:

Law 16A, 12B1, 12C1(c)

East/West appealed.

Present: All players except East, both Captains and the Coach of North/South

The Players:

North explained the bidding to the Committee. 1♦ usually shows 5 cards (it could still be (41)44, maximum 21 points), 3♠ is game forcing and 4♠ shows normal support. When 5♠ was doubled, North assumed East had good trumps, and he wanted to retreat to diamonds, which would be at least as beneficial. His partner had never been told he had a diamond fit. North told the Committee he had noticed the break in tempo, but he could not deduce what it meant. Perhaps he was thinking of redoubling. North stated that he bid 6♦ purely and solely on the basis of the fact that Mr Lauria had doubled him. When asked, redoubling was precisely what South told the Committee he was thinking about. 5♠ showed a willingness to play there, and higher, and when it was doubled, that looked like a good thing. But when a World Champion doubles you, you are less certain it makes.

South said he would have bid 6♠ if East had not doubled. His consideration was whether to redouble or not.

West told the Committee they had called the Director merely because there had been a hesitation. He thought the hesitation showed that South had opened 1♦ with the unbalanced variant of the call.

The Committee:

Started by stating that after 5♣ and 5♦, 5♠ showed a willingness to play slam. South had not been thinking about bidding 6♦ though, and North knew this (he was looking at KQJ9, and South had no clue these were on-side). This meant the hesitation could not be said to demonstrably suggest bidding 6♦, and North was free to do so.

The Committee's decision:

Original table result restored

Deposit: Returned

Appeal No. 8
Italy v Iceland

Appeals Committee:

PO Sundelin (Chairman, Sweden), Grattan Endicott (and Scribe, England), Jan Kamras (Sweden), Jean-Paul Meyer (France)

Women's Teams Round 9

Board 13. Dealer North. All Vul.

	♠ 9 4	
	♥ A 10 7 2	
	♦ K J	
	♣ A J 10 4 3	
♠ K 10 5 3	/	♠ A Q J 8
♥ J 8		♥ K Q 9 3
♦ Q 9 4 3 2		♦ A 8 6
♣ 8 2		♣ K 5
	♠ 7 6 2	
	♥ 6 5 4	
	♦ 10 7 5	
	♣ Q 9 7 6	

West	North	East	South
<i>ValgerdurK</i>	<i>Saccavini</i>	<i>Esther J</i>	<i>Paoluzi</i>
	1♣	Dble	Pass
1♦	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Comments: 1♣ may be 2 cards
 1NT 19-21

Contract: Three No Trumps, played by East

Lead: ♠6

Result: 9 tricks, NS -600

The Facts:

2♣ was explained by West to South as Stayman, but by East to North as natural. North complained that she would have doubled 2♣ if artificial, to show a good suit, and South would then have led clubs against 3NT.

The Director:

East/West expressed contrary opinions as to their methods. He consulted the System Card, but this offered no help. The Director ruled that North had been misinformed, and agreed that she would have doubled. The Director believed that East would not have bid 3NT in that case, and gave an adjusted score based on a part score in diamonds.

Ruling:

Score adjusted to 2♦ by West, making 10 tricks, NS -130

Relevant Laws:

Law 40B4, 12B1, 12C1(c)

East/West appealed.

Present: All players and both Captains

The Players:

West argued that if North doubles clubs it becomes easier to find the game in Spades since East/West will seek an alternative contract. She added that South has the correct explanation and is not inhibited from leading clubs as it was. She felt that if there is no double South is not damaged. East said that correctly after double and INT it is "system on"; she had confused herself and got it wrong. South said she had understood the auction to show East with a strong hand without the majors.

The Committee:

Agreed there is misinformation by East to North. North/South are damaged. North cannot double. With North/South having correct information and East continuing to remain confused it is not easy for East/West to find a Spade contract (West has not shown the suit). The Director's judgement that a part score in Diamonds would ensue is a fair assessment of the position.

The Committee's decision:

Director's ruling upheld.

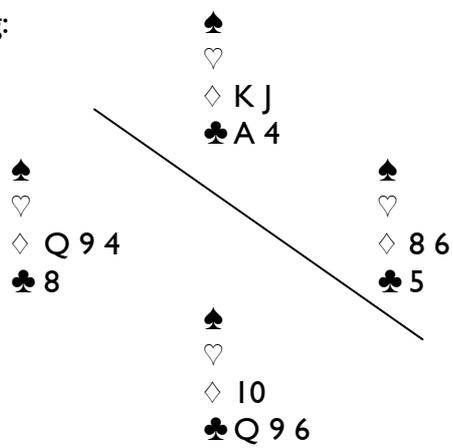
Deposit: returned.

Note:

The table recording shows the full play as:

West	North	East	South
♠3	♠9	♠A	♠6
♠5	♠4	♠Q	♠7
♥J	♥A	♥3	♥4
♣2	♣3	♣K	♣7
♠K	♣10	♠J	♠2
♠10	♣J	♠8	♥6
♥8	♥2	♥9	♥5
♦2	♥7	♥K	♦5
♦3	♥10	♥Q	♦7
		♦A	

leaving:



Appeal No. 9
Estonia v Turkey

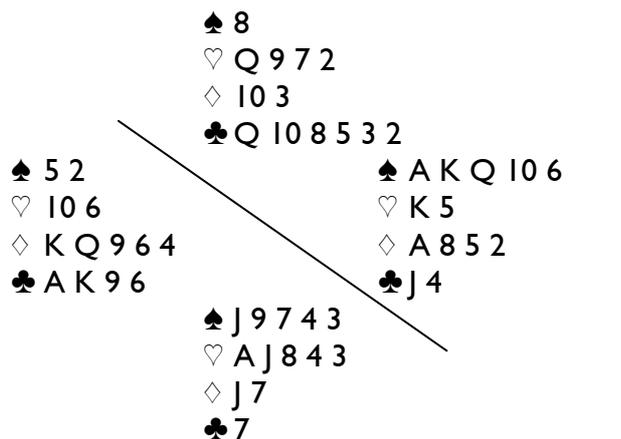
Appeals Committee:

Jens Auken (Chairman, Denmark), Grattan Endicott (England), Jan Kamras (Sweden), Jean-Paul Meyer (France), PO Sundelin (Sweden)

Herman De Wael sat in on the meeting to act as Scribe

Open Teams Final Round 5

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.



West	North	East	South
<i>Senguler</i>	<i>Karpov</i>	<i>Sen</i>	<i>Laanemae</i>
	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Comments: 4NT RKCB

Contract: Six Diamonds, played by West

Lead: ♠8

Result: 12 tricks, NS -920

The Facts:

The bid of 3♥ was explained differently on both sides of the screen. West wrote to South: "I may not have hearts, I think last train for 3NT". East did not alert it at first, but after 4♣ he alerted both 3♥ and 4♣, explaining "cue" for both. North complained that he would have led a heart with the correct information.

The Director:

Ruled that North had been misinformed and damaged by that misinformation. With the correct information, North might have led a heart. The Director consulted five players, three of whom would still have led a spade, the other two a heart. Consequently, the

Director wanted to give a weighted score based on 50% of a heart lead, but he turned this immediately into a result for the match (the other table having made game).

Ruling:

Score adjusted to a flat board

Relevant Laws:

Law 40B4, 12B1, 12C1(c)

both North/South and East/West appealed.

Present: All players and both Captains

The Players:

East explained that he had not alerted 3♥ the first time, thinking it was natural. On the next round, he had realised that partner was trying to say something, and so he alerted both 3♥ and 4♣, explaining them as cues.

West explained it was not a convention, but he had found no other good bid. He would have bid the same with hearts and clubs inverted. He had alerted and written about the last train because that was what he had. When asked, he admitted he would not have alerted 3♥ if he had held AKxx. East/West had been playing together for 1 year. 3♠ would have shown spade support.

South explained he was surprised to see his partner lead spades. When he asked his partner why, the misexplanation came to light.

North/South explained why they appealed. With the correct explanation (with 4♣ being a cue but 3♥ not showing anything), a heart lead is more than 50% certain. They thought it was quite an obvious lead and wanted the weight to go to 75%.

West told the Committee that around the room, 21 pairs had bid 6♦. 15 players had led the ♠8, and only 5 a small heart. Both pairs pointed out that this was with differing auctions, of course.

The Committee:

Found that East/West should have been more specific in their agreements. They knew precisely what 3♠ would have meant, so why not 3♥. After all, it was only the second round of a quite common, uncontested auction.

There was no doubt North had been misinformed.

Nor was there any doubt that North/South had been damaged by this misinformation.

The only question that then remained was as to the amount of redress to be given. The Committee noted that both frequencies cited (2/5 of players consulted by the Director; 5/21 of players in the room) were lower than the 50% the Director had apparently given and saw no reason to change the ruling.

The Committee noted however, that with a weight of 50%, the result should be 1 IMP in favour of North/South. The Committee decided to change the final result to this value.

The Committee found that East/West should not have appealed.

The Committee's decision:

Director's ruling upheld, just changing the formulation:

Both sides receive:

50% of 6♦-1 by West (NS +50)
plus 50% of 6♦= by West (NS -920)

Deposit: Forfeited for East/West; Returned to North/South

Note: the result at the other table was 4NT+1, NS -460 so the final result on the board was:

50% of $(50+460 = 11 \text{ IMPs})$
plus 50% of $(-920+460 = -10 \text{ IMPs})$
equating to 0.5 IMPs to the team of North/South, rounded to 1 IMP in favour of the non-offending team.

Note: West's statistics about the leads were correct, the 21st lead was a small club.

Appeal No. 10
Germany v Russia

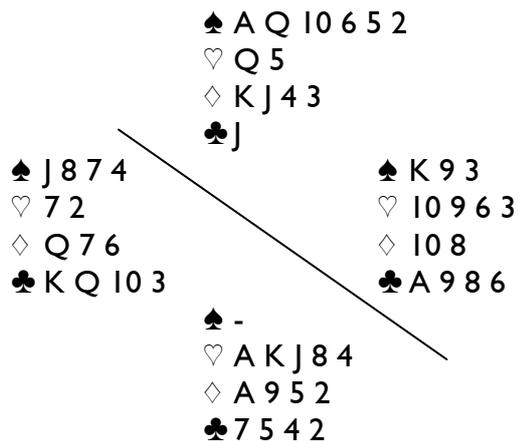
Appeals Committee:

Jens Auken (Chairman, Denmark), Grattan Endicott (England), Guido Ferraro (Italy), Jean-Paul Meyer (France), Barry Rigal (England), PO Sundelin (Sweden)

Herman De Wael sat in on the meeting to act as Scribe

Open Teams Final Round 7

Board 9. Dealer North. East/West Vul.



West	North	East	South
<i>Matushko</i>	<i>Piekarek</i>	<i>Khokhlov</i>	<i>Smirnov</i>
	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Contract: Three No-trumps, played by South

Play:	West	North	East	South
	<u>♣K</u>	♣J	♣6	♣4
	<u>♣10</u>	♠2	♣8	♣5
	♠4	<u>♠A</u>	♠3	♣2
	♥2	<u>♥Q</u>	♥3	♥4
	♥7	♥5	♥6	<u>♥A</u>
	♦6	♠5	♥9	<u>♥K</u>
	♠7	♠6	♥10	<u>♥J</u>
	♠8	♠10	♠9	<u>♥8</u>
	♦7	♦3	♦8	<u>♦A</u>

leaving:

	♠ Q	
	♥ -	
	♦ K J 4	
	♣ -	
♠ J		♠ K
♥ -		♥ -
♦ Q		♦ 10
♣ Q 3		♣ A 9
	♠ -	
	♥ -	
	♦ 9 5 2	
	♣ 7	

Result: (after ruling) 7 tricks, NS -100

The Facts:

In the ninth trick, Declarer South played the ♦2 towards the table. West played the queen, and South said "jack". When South attempted to change his play to the king, East/West called the Director.

The Director:

Established the facts, and ruled that the Jack has been named and must be played.

Ruling:

Ninth trick to West with the ♠Q, together with the last three, NS -100

Relevant Laws:

Law 45.C.4(a)

North/South appealed.

Present: South, West and both Captains

The Players:

Declarer South explained the play. East/West had taken only two of their four possible club tricks, and then played spades. He had run off 5 heart tricks, on which West had discarded two spades and a diamond. South now knew West started with four clubs, two hearts, four spades and three diamonds (although he was not 100% certain of this). He knew he could take all tricks by cashing ♦AK.

When asked whether he had seen the queen, South answered positively. He did not know why he had said "jack". His English was perfect.

South's captain asked to consider the whole play and see that it was never the intention to play the Jack. It was a clear slip of the tongue. The captain pointed to Law 45C4(b), which states:

Until his partner has played a card a player may change an unintended designation if he does so without

pause for thought If an opponent has, in turn, played a card that was legal before the change in designation, that opponent may withdraw the card so played, return it to his hand, and substitute another (see Laws 47D and 16D I).

Clearly his player had not intended to play the \diamond J.

West told the Committee that South had clearly said "Jack", after which dummy had waited for 2 or 3 seconds before playing the Jack. Only then had Declarer tried to change his play to the King. He had said "no no no" and called the Director.

The Committee:

Concluded that it had been dummy's hesitation which made Declarer realise he had played the wrong card. The Director had ruled correctly.

The Committee's decision:

Director's ruling upheld.

Deposit: Returned

Appeal No. 11
Norway v Latvia

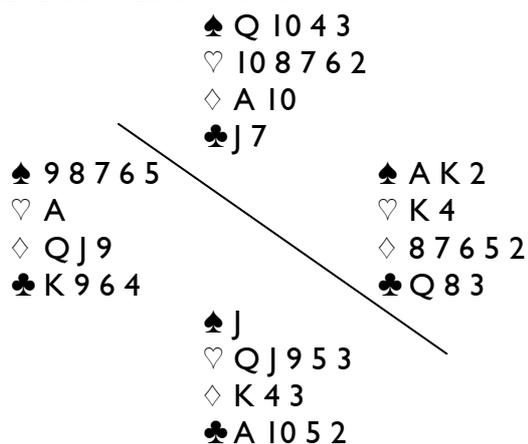
Appeals Committee:

Jens Auken (Chairman, Denmark), Grattan Endicott (England), Guido Ferraro (Italy), Jean-Paul Meyer (France), Barry Rigal (England), PO Sundelin (Sweden)

Herman De Wael sat in on the meeting to act as Scribe

Open Teams Final Round 9

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.



West	North	East	South
<i>Jansons</i>	<i>Lindqvist</i>	<i>Rubenis</i>	<i>Brogeland</i>
1♠	3♣	1♣	1♥
4♠	Dble	Dble	4♥
	Dble	All Pass	

Comments: 1♣ natural, 5-card majors, min. 2-card ♣
 Dble 3-card ♠-support
 3♣ see below

Contract: Four Spades Doubled, played by West

Lead: ♥2

Result: 7 tricks, NS +500

The Facts:

West called the Director at the end of the hand, complaining about different explanations on either side of the screen. South had told him that 3♣ was a splinter, while North had explained it as merely heart support, 7-10 points. West said that if he had received the latter explanation, he would not have bid 4♠, but preferred defending 4♥.

The Director:

Ruled that West had been misinformed but saw no relation between it and the damage to East/West.

Ruling:
Result Stands

Relevant Laws:
Law 40B4

East/West appealed.

Present: All players except East and both Captains

The Players:

West explained that he would never have bid 4♠ with the other explanation, because he held defensive values.

East added that North had explained to him "quite balanced". North confirmed this and it was established that quite had the meaning "almost". North also said that 2♣ and 2NT showed good raises, and that 3♣ therefore showed a balanced hand. South stated that North was mistaken, and that this was the way they played it if West had passed. In this auction, it would have shown shortness.

South thought East should be more likely to bid 4♠ with the balanced explanation. After all, with the explanation singleton, he risked a ♣ lead, a ruff, and a bad trump break.

The Committee:

Agreed with the ruling that West had been misinformed. North/South had brought no evidence to the contrary.

This misinformation certainly influenced his decision, and it was a lot closer than the Director had thought. South's argument about 4♠ being more likely opposite the balanced hand was not correct, because the ruff would be from a natural trump trick, and there is no communication in hearts to produce more than one ruff.

West may or may not bid 4♠, and the Committee saw no reason to use another weight than 50%. 4♥ would be one down, undoubled.

The Committee's decision:

Director's ruling adjusted:

Both sides receive:

50% of 4♠*-3 by West (NS +500)
plus 50% of 4♥-1 by South (NS -100)

Deposit: Returned

Note: the result at the other table was 4♥-1, NS -100 so the final result on the board was:

50% of (500+100 = +12 IMPs)
plus 50% of (-100+100 = 0 IMPs)
equating to 6 IMPs to the team of North/South

Note:

The table recording shows the full play as:

West	North	East	South
<u>♥A</u>	♥2	♥4	♥J
♠5	♠3	<u>♠A</u>	♠J
♣4	♥10	<u>♥K</u>	♥5
♦Q	<u>♦A</u>	♦2	♦3
<u>♣K</u>	♣J	♣3	♣2
♠6	♠10	<u>♠K</u>	♥9
♦9	♦10	♦5	<u>♦K</u>
♦J	<u>♠4</u>	♦6	♦4
♠7	<u>♠Q</u>	♠2	♣5
♠8	♥7	♦7	♥Q
♣6	♣7	♣8	<u>♣10</u>
			♥3

I more trick to EW

Appeal No. 12
Croatia v Greece

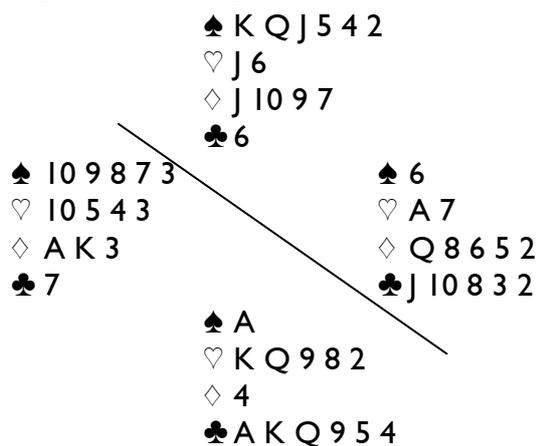
Appeals Committee:

Jens Auken (Chairman, Denmark), Grattan Endicott (England), Guido Ferraro (Italy), Jean-Paul Meyer (France), Barry Rigal (England), PO Sundelin (Sweden)

Herman De Wael sat in on the meeting to act as Scribe

Women's Teams Round 19

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.



West	North	East	South
<i>Venetaki</i>	<i>Brkljacic</i>	<i>Georgiou</i>	<i>Martinovic</i>
Dble ¹	1♥	Dble	1♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Comments: 1♣ 16+
 Dble¹ 4⁺-4⁺ in Majors, not so strong
 1♥ 7+, no 3 controls, likely unbalanced
 rest see below

Contract: Three No-trumps, played by South

Lead: ♥5

Result: 8 tricks, NS -50

The Facts:

South called the Director after she discovered there had been different explanations on either side of the screen. East had explained her double to North as lead directing, while West had explained it to South as a four-card suit. South told the Director that if she had known that the double did not promise 4 cards, she would have redoubled to indicate she wanted to play there.

The Director:

Established that East/West could not prove that East had misbid, and ruled misinformation to South. The Director then asked both North and South (separately) what a redouble would show, and both came up with the example of Stayman - if it is doubled, a redouble would show that one wished to play 2♣. The Director asked South why she did not redouble with the explanation she got, and she stated she did not want to play in a 5-0 fit. Finally, the Director asked 5 players, mainly women, whether they would leave 1♥XX in on the North hand - all would have.

Ruling:

Score adjusted to 1♥XX by South, making 8 tricks, NS +720

Relevant Laws:

Law 40B4, 12B1, 12C1(c)

East/West appealed.

Present: All players and both Captains

The Players:

West pointed out that this auction never took place. South did not redouble, so why give her a contract based on that? West thought her partner's double showed four hearts. East/West's captain told that South had received a correct explanation of the system. The double showed hearts, it was East who had made the mistake.

South explained that they had many agreements about redoubles being for penalty.

Another example was 1♣-pass-1♦-dble-redble showed a willingness to play in diamonds, even knowing partner was weak. The explanations showed hearts to be 4-4 in East/West, which did not seem very strange. In that case, North held no hearts and 1♥ was not a good contract.

South further explained she did not want to guess there might be a misunderstanding. She trusted the explanation which was given and she now bid her suit as soon as possible. If she had received the information that the double was merely lead-directing, she felt she had to propose playing in 1♥.

When asked if she would always pass the redouble, North explained they had some discretion there, but she had what she had promised and even the trump holding was worth something.

The Committee:

Found that the Director had made a very good ruling. East/West had not demonstrated that there was a misbid. 8 tricks in 1♥ seemed correct after a heart lead and return, even 9 without them.

The Committee's decision:

Director's ruling upheld.

Deposit: Returned

Note:

The table recording shows the full play as:

West	North	East	South
♥5	♥6	<u>♥A</u>	♥2
♥3	♥J	♥7	♥8
♠3	♠2	♠6	♠A
♣7	♣6	♣3	♣A
♠7	♠4	♣2	♣K
♥4	♠5	♦2	<u>♥K</u>
♥10	♠J	♦5	♥Q

leaving:

	♠ K Q	
	♥ -	
	♦ J 10 9 7	
	♣ -	
♠ 10 9 8		♠ -
♥ -		♥ -
♦ A K 3		♦ Q 8 6
♣ -		♣ J 10 8
	♠ -	
	♥ 9	
	♦ 4	
	♣ Q 9 5 4	

Appeal No. 13
Scotland v Denmark

Appeals Committee:

PO Sundelin (Chairman, Sweden), Herman De Wael (Scribe, Belgium), Grattan Endicott (England), Jan Kamras (Sweden), Barry Rigal (England),

Seniors Teams Round 16

Board 4. Dealer West. East/West Vul.

	♠ K 10		
	♥ A Q 8 5 4 2		
	♦ 10 6 5 4		
	♣ 6		
♠ J 9 7 6	/	♠ Q 8	
♥ 9 3		♥ J	
♦ A Q J 3		♦ K 9 8 7 2	
♣ 7 4 3		♣ A Q J 9 8	
	♠ A 5 4 3 2		
	♥ K 10 7 6		
	♦ —		
	♣ K 10 5 2		
West	North	East	South
<i>Møller</i>	<i>Matheson</i>	<i>Lund</i>	<i>Coyle</i>
			1♠
Pass	INT		
		THEN	
Pass	1♥	2NT	4♦
5♦	5♥	All Pass	

Contract: Five Hearts, played by North

Result: 12 tricks, NS +680

The Facts:

South opened out of turn, but West did not notice he was dealer, and he passed. The tray was pushed to the other side, where North bid INT. Now East noticed the irregularity, and the Director was called.

The Director:

Read regulation C.1.4.(B) and had the bidding start again. He told the table that the 1♠ (and the pass) was Unauthorized Information to both teams. The second bidding sequence went as shown. At the end of the hand, at the request of East/West, he reviewed the auction to see if Unauthorized Information had been used. He found it had not.

Ruling:

Result Stands

Relevant Laws:

Conditions of Contest, C.1.4.B

East/West appealed.

Present: All players except East and both Captains

The Players:

West explained there were two reasons for his appeal.

Firstly, he thought he had done nothing wrong. It was South who made the mistake, and he had merely passed over the opening bid. He thought he should not be called "at fault", as is stated in the Conditions of Contest (B), but rather "only one side at fault", which was point C. In that case, the bidding simply continues with the 1♠ opening. It might be difficult for North/South to find the Heart fit then.

Secondly, West did not believe North/South had not made use of the Unauthorized Information. North had first bid INT, showing less than game-going values over an opening. In the second auction, his hand was suddenly worth an opening.

When asked how he thought the bidding would have gone if North had opened 2♥, West admitted they no longer had a minor two-suiter available, and North/South might well have reached the heart game as well.

North explained why he believed his hand was not worth a game raise (2♥ would be game-forcing), but still a one-level opening. The 2♥-opening was described on their System Card as weak, 6-10, and he considered the hand too strong for that. They used Zar-counts, in which the hand was worth 27 points (12 HCP counting 6421; 12 points for the 6-card suit, and 3 as the difference between the second longest and the shortest suit), when 26 was required for an opening at the one-level. Also the hand held only 6 losers. South was asked what he had opened on board 3 of the same set (J654 5 Q109875 Q7, non-vul against vul, 1st seat) and he said he had opened 2♦ (weak).

North/South were asked how the bidding would have gone after a 1♠ opening and INT response. If South had rebid 2♣, North would have bid 2♥, because 3♥ would have been splinter agreeing clubs.

The Director told the Committee what the results had been across the room. 17 pairs out of 20 were in 4♥ or 5♥, all but two making 12 tricks. One pair was in six. Only one table played in spades (and one in 5♣X).

The Committee:

Started by making reservations about the regulations.

Mr Endicott observed that, jointly with the WBF CTD, he has challenged the legality of any regulation varying rectification after an irregularity has passed through the screen. This contention has the support of others and is under consideration in WBF circles.

The Committee agreed that in proceeding on the basis of the regulations published for these championships it would not adopt a position endorsing their legality.

The Committee then turned its attention to the regulation C.1.4.B:

When the infringing call is nonetheless passed across the screen, both sides being at fault (as when either player commits a bidding infraction and the proper player - North or South - moves the tray before rectification), both players on the other side of the screen are responsible for calling attention to the infraction and summoning the Director. The Director shall return the tray

to the offending players for rectification of the irregularity to be put right without other rectification. These infringing calls may not be accepted.

Was West at fault, when all he did was not notice South's mistake? The regulation stipulated that "either" player made the infraction and the correct player (in this case South) passed the tray. A similar case was put forward: West opens out of turn and South pushes the tray. Here too, South merely fails to notice West's mistake but it is clear that he can be considered "at fault".

By the definition of the regulation therefore, West was considered at fault.

The Committee found that the Director had ruled correctly in letting the auction start again.

The Committee then considered whether North had used the Unauthorised Information. The Committee accepted North's explanation as to his choice of call. The hand was indeed worth a one-level opening under his valuation scheme, if not a game-forcing reply. As a separate consideration, even with a 2♥ opening, North/South are likely to end up in game.

In a 4-1 majority decision, the Committee ruled that East/West's appeal was without merit.

The Committee's decision:

Director's ruling upheld.

Deposit: Forfeited

Special Hearing Norway v Germany

Appeals Committee:

Jens Auken (Chairman, Denmark), Grattan Endicott (England), Guido Ferraro (Italy), Barry Rigal (England), PO Sundelin (Sweden)

Herman De Wael sat in on the meeting to act as Scribe

Open Teams Final Round 13

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

	♠ Q 10 7 3	
	♥ 9	
	♦ A J 7 6 2	
	♣ Q 6 5	
♠ K 8 5 2	/	♠ J 6
♥ K J 10 8 4	/	♥ 6 5 3 2
♦ K Q	/	♦ 10 9 5 4 3
♣ 10 3	/	♣ 7 2
	♠ A 9 4	
	♥ A Q 7	
	♦ 8	
	♣ A K J 9 8 4	

West	North	East	South
<i>Elinescu</i>	<i>Molberg</i>	<i>Wladow</i>	<i>Aa</i>
2♥	Pass	2♠	3♣
Pass	3♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Comments: 2♥ 10-14, 6c♥ or 5c♥+4cm
2♠ 6-10, 5c♠, NF

Contract: Three No-trumps, played by South

Lead: ♠2

Result: 11 tricks, NS +490

The Facts:

When South discovered, at the end of the hand, that East had 4 spades, he called the Director to report West's psyche. He did not ask for a ruling at that time.

25 minutes after the end of the round, North/South did want a ruling. They could not find a Director, but were able to have the timing of their request confirmed. The ruling was made during the first match of the next morning, and was given to both captains at the end of that match.

The Director:

Ruled that East/West had failed to disclose all their partnership understandings (Law 40A3). He was unable to decide on an obvious adjustment and awarded an artificial

adjusted score (Law 12C1d). That was +3IMPs to NS (Law 12C2b), which did not need to be changed for a particular favourable score at the other table (Law 86D). In addition, the Chief Tournament Director had decided to report the matter to the Appeals Committee. A meeting was scheduled for the mid-day interval, but it proved impossible to find all players. During this aborted meeting, both captains announced their wish to appeal the ruling. A new meeting was scheduled for the afternoon interval.

Ruling:

Match result on the board adjusted to +3 IMPs in favour of the team of North/South

Relevant Laws:

Law 40A3, 12C1d, 12C2b, 86D

Present: All players and both Captains

The Players:

West explained why he opened 2♥. He had a very normal 1♥ opening, but bid 2♥ instead. When he noticed, he felt it was too late to change his call.

East confirmed that his 2♠ showed 6-10 and 5 spades. When asked if this was a psyche, he needed a translation into German and confirmed it was a "bluff". When asked, East confirmed that it was the first time he had ever psyched like this.

West then explained why he passed. South had thought for a long time and asked if 2♠ was forcing or not. West commented that this had taken 5 minutes. South later confirmed that he had thought and asked questions, stating it had taken one minute; West then reduced his estimate of the time to 2 minutes. West stated that he thought it was clear that South held a huge hand. West did what he always did when his opponents have a lot of points - he did not disclose he had a fit. After all, he did not have game-going values.

West was asked what he would have done if South had passed. He said he would have passed, since there were no game-going values. Normally, he would have competed to 3♠ over 3♣, but because of the long pause, he did not do so.

East/West, through their captain, questioned the labelling of their understandings as undisclosed. The Tournament Director had never asked what had happened. To this, the Chief Tournament Director confirmed that they had made their ruling in the knowledge that West had seen a long hesitation by South. West found the whole ruling amazing and intriguing. The Captain told the Committee that he would have appealed the ruling, but that he wanted to have his pair rest, rather than try for a single VP in committee.

The Captain of North/South also questioned why he was not allowed to appeal the decision. They had gone, after scoring, directly to the Committee Room, where they expressed their desire to appeal to the Chairman of the Appeals Committee.

The Chief Tournament Director stated that he had told North/South about the ruling quite a long time before that, and that he had understood they were happy with the ruling. He found that they had let their appeal time slip.

The Committee:

Noted that East/West had made three consecutive non-systemic bids. The pair are well known for their creative bidding.

The first one (2♥) might well be because of the explanation (mispull) offered. It is difficult to envisage how such a misdescription might seem to be of benefit to try and keep opponents out of slam or out of a spade contract.

The second bid (2♠) is what is called a baby-psyche. It would be very surprising if this was the first time this pair had performed such an action. But, in itself, it is not a very unusual action. There is a hint of partnership understanding here, though.

The third unusual bid is something else, though. West has a true 1♥ opening, but has (by chance) opened a weak two. 2♥ denies spades, but yet West has them. Partner is long in spades and short in hearts and so a bid of 3♠ is almost obligatory. Yet West did not make that call. His explanation that South has told him that there is something going on was valid, but still, this is, in the opinion of some members of the Committee, what in England would be called a "fielded psyche".

In this light, the Committee felt that the Director had correctly ruled. There is partnership understanding here, obviously undisclosed.

There is however no evidence of anything more than that.

Since the Director's ruling is judged to be correct, the question as to whether or not either side appealed the ruling had become mute, and the Committee decided to follow the advice of the Chief Tournament Director and rule that both appeals were either unfounded or out of time.

The Committee's decision:

Director's ruling upheld.

Deposit: none asked.