

Appeal #	Issue	Event
2007-05	Unauthorised information	Gold Coast Congress Open Pairs
Stage	Round	Date
Qualifying	1	2007-02-18
Committee	R. Grenside (c), M. Ware, N. Francis, A. Braithwaite	

Board 18
Dealer E
Vul NS
Scoring Matchpoint pairs

North

♠ T94
 ♥ KJT974
 ♦ K74
 ♣ J

West

♠ AKJ52
 ♥ 653
 ♦
 ♣ AK842

East

♠ 763
 ♥ Q82
 ♦ 82
 ♣ T9653

South

♠ Q8
 ♥ A
 ♦ AQJT9653
 ♣ Q7

West	North	East	South
-	-	Pass	1♦
1♠	2♥ (1)	Pass	3♦
Pass (2)	Pass	3♠	4♦
4♠	All pass		

- (1) Negative free bid
 (2) Alleged hesitation

Table result	4♠+1 by West, EW +450
Director's ruling	3♦+1 by North, NS +130
Committee's ruling	3♦+1 by North, NS +130 Appeal without merit, maximum fine

The Director: Was called at the end of play. North was concerned that East had bid 3♠ following their partner's alleged slow pass (2).

After consulting with other directors, the unanimous decision was reached that Pass was a logical alternative to 3♠ in this situation. Under Laws 73F1 and 12C2, an adjusted score was awarded of 3♦+1, NS +130.

Relevant laws: 12C2, 73F1.

The appellants: Did not understand how the decision could be reached given that this was only played at the second table.

Claimed that there was virtually no hesitation by West. Also pointed out that as they were not vulnerable, the auction was not suspicious. After West had passed, North made the comment that he "reserved his rights", and repeated that comment after East bid 3♠. Appellants thought that North's comments could be considered an attempt to dissuade them from bidding further.

The respondents: Made no written submissions.

The appeals committee: Dismissed the appeal. Having decided that the appeal was without merit, was of the opinion that the maximum fine should be applied.