



# Ask a Director

by JOHN McILRATH

**Q:**

**"Do you acknowledge there is a hesitation?"**

**Has this occurred to you at your table, either during or at the end of auction?**

**A:**

A couple of things to remember! Firstly, it is not a crime to "hesitate". Secondly, all the opponents are trying to do is – "protect their rights!".

The question I ask is "what should I do?". My advice is be honest, this does not cause any problem. Irrespective as to whether you are or not, the Director could be called at that time, to alert the director that a "problem" may exist. Should that happen, then the director will probably just say "Play on and call me back, at the end of the hand, if you wish." Remember, we are only looking to see whether damage to the opponents has occurred.

As we said, it is not a crime to hesitate. The problem arises from what information that you, the partner of the hesitator, take from the break in tempo. What was partner thinking? The quite simply says, "any extraneous information from partner that might suggest a call or play is unauthorised. Amongst other matters, this includes "unmistakeable hesitation".

Remember, we are only looking to see whether damage has occurred to the opponents. Otherwise we just play on.

