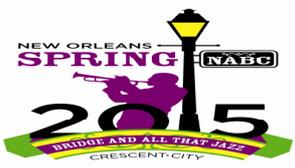


APPEAL	NON-NABC+ SEVEN
Subject	Tempo
DIC	Terry Lavender
Event	Tues/Wed Knockout Teams
Session	Third Session
Date	March 18, 2015

BD#	31
VUL	N/S
DLR	S

518 masterpoints	
♠	KQ974
♥	752
♦	76
♣	QJ5

572 masterpoints	
♠	J
♥	AQJ1083
♦	QJ93
♣	K7

	
1480 masterpoints	
♠	A1086
♥	964
♦	A52
♣	A86

532 masterpoints	
♠	532
♥	K
♦	K1084
♣	109432

West	North	East	South
			1♦⁽¹⁾
1♥	1♠⁽²⁾	P	2♠
3♥	P⁽³⁾	P	3♠
P	P	P	

Final Contract	3♠ by North
Opening Lead	♥K
Table Result	Down 1, -100
Director Ruling	3♥ by W, Made 4, N/S -170
Panel Decision	3♥ by W, Made 4, N/S -170

(1)	Precision: showing 12-14 balanced, or 11-15 unbalanced
(2)	Promised 5 spades
(3)	Break in tempo

The Facts: The director was first summoned to the table during the auction, then called back at the conclusion of the play of the hand. Though the precise duration of hesitation was not determined, both North and South conceded that one had taken place.

The Ruling: The director decided that the agreed break in tempo suggested that bidding 3♠ would be successful, and pursuant to Law 16B ruled that pass was a logical alternative. The contract was rolled back to 3♥ by West, making 4, N/S -170.

The Appeal: N/S appealed the ruling. South claimed that despite the hesitation, the law of total tricks supports his decision to bid 3♠ based upon the known nine card spade fit.

The Decision: Law 16B1(a) states: “After a player makes available to his partner extraneous information that may suggest a call or play, . . . the partner may not choose from among logical alternatives one that could demonstrably have been suggested over another by the extraneous information.” It was clear that there had been an “unmistakable hesitation”, so the panel focused on whether that hesitation demonstrably suggested the 3♠ bid.

Four peer players were consulted. The first passed quickly. Each of the other three made note of the fact that N/S did have a 9 card spade fit. Two of those three pointed out that the shape of the hand (4-3-3-3), and the unfavorable vulnerability mitigated against the law and chose to pass. The final player gave tenuous endorsement of the 3♠ bid.

Finally, an expert was consulted. He thought that the BIT strongly suggested bidding 3♠, and he thought that pass was a logical alternative.

The panel upheld the director's decision of 3♥ by W, making 4, N/S -170. The appeal was found to have merit.

The Panel: Marc Labovitz (reviewer), Matt Smith, Scott Humphrey

Expert Consultant: Michael Polowan

Commentary:

Woolsey – Certainly correct. Passing is definitely a LA with the South hand. The law of total tricks does not say to bid 3♠, since South has no idea what the total trump count is. In fact it is only 16, which would make the 3♠ call wrong on balance.

Wildavsky – Looks right to me. I see no merit to the appeal. The appellants knew the results of the poll; on what basis could they expect the ruling to be reversed?

Martel – Good

Marques – The only remark might be that the BIT might suggest different things for different levels of players. I would have asked the peer players, as a second question, what would the BIT suggested to them.

There might be an argument about not knowing what North was thinking (doubling or bidding on), but after North showed his fit in the first round the UI clearly shows a non-minimum hand anyway, demonstrably suggesting that 3♠ is a more profitable call than pass. The LTT remark is a self-serving statement. Good decision overall.

Kooijman – Good ruling, but no merit to the appeal.

Goldsmith – Good. The appeal had merit. Most of the player's peers thought it was a close decision between bidding 3♣ and passing.