

Subject of Appeal:	Break In Tempo	Case:	N2
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Event	Rockwell Mixed Pairs	Event DIC	Brian Russell
Date	03/25/2014	Session	Second Qualifying

Auction

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1♦	Dbl	1♠
Pass	Pass	1NT	2♦
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

Hand Record

Board	11	N	Amit Chakrabarti		
Dealer	S	♠	J1076		
		♥	108		
Vul	None	♦	J872		
		♣	AK7		
W	Linda Tipton			E	V. Jay Tipton
♠	984			♠	K
♥	Q62			♥	AK95
♦	A93			♦	KQ8
♣	10654			♣	Q9832
		S	Elizabeth Jankford		
		♠	AQ532		
		♥	J743		
		♦	1054		
		♣	J		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
3NT by E	Made 4	E/W +430	♦ 4

Facts Determined at the Table

The director was summoned at the conclusion of play of the next board. South explained that there had been a hesitation by Declarer at trick three. The play had gone low diamond to the Ace; low club to the Ace, ♠J to the King and Ace. Because of the delay in playing the King, South returned the ♦10 to the King. Declarer now led another club to the King, and North returned another Diamond; with Declarer taking the remainder of the tricks. North agreed with South that "there was a hitch." West said they did not notice a hesitation, but East admitted that there might have been one as they "were working out the club suit." No definitive time for the break in tempo was given, but the N/S felt it was longer than normal.

Director Ruling

Even with the lateness of the director call, it was ruled that a break in tempo likely did occur. Based upon Law 73F, it was ruled that South had drawn a false inference from the hesitation. As the spades are blocked, per Law 12C1e, the most likely result of 3NT by East, down 2, N/S +100 was assigned to both pairs.

Director's Ruling	3NT by E, Down 2, N/S +100
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The Appeal

East/West appealed the ruling and all players attended the Committee meeting. West felt that there had not been a hesitation, however East did state that he was processing the information at the table as he was playing to the ♠J. While N/S were not in agreement on the length of the hesitation, both were in agreement that a noticeable one did occur. The Committee felt that there was a hesitation before the play of the ♠K.

Committee Findings

The Committee felt that the ruling by the Director that a hesitation had occurred which caused South to make a false inference was correct. Therefore, the result for E/W of 3NT by East, down 2, E/W -100 was confirmed.

However, the Committee was unanimous in the belief that North, based upon the bidding, had to realize that continuing spades was the defense's only option to defeat 3NT. North's failure to continue spades when in with the ♣K was felt to meet the criteria of Law 12C1b:

"If, subsequent to the irregularity, the non-offending side has contributed to its own damage by a serious error (unrelated to the infraction) or by a wild or gambling action, it does not receive relief in the adjustment for such part of the damage as is self inflicted."

Accordingly, the Committee ruled that the table result for N/S (3NT by E, made 4, N/S -430) should stand.

Committee Decision	N/S: 3NT by E, Made 4, N/S -430 E/W: 3NT by E, Down 2, E/W -100
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Committee Members

Chair	Michael Huston
Member	Craig Allen
Member	Tom Peters
Member	Patty Tucker
Member	Chris Moll
Member	Ray Miller