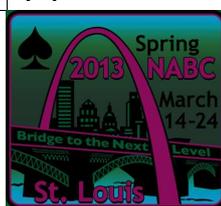


APPEAL	NABC+ SEVEN
Subject	Break in Tempo
DIC	Mike Flader
Event	Mixed Pairs
Session	1 st Final
Date	March 20, 2013

BD#	24
VUL	None
DLR	W

Ellis Feigenbaum	
♠	AK3
♥	Q1073
♦	AQJ2
♣	74

Rebecca Rogers	
♠	8542
♥	A862
♦	K87
♣	K3



John Grantham	
♠	QJ1097
♥	K
♦	4
♣	Q98652

Marjorie Michelin	
♠	6
♥	J954
♦	109653
♣	AJ10

West	North	East	South
P	1NT ⁽¹⁾	2♣ ⁽²⁾	P
2♥	P	2♠	3♦
3♠	4♦	P	P
X ⁽³⁾	P	4♠	P
P	P		

Final Contract	4♠ by East
Opening Lead	♦10
Table Result	Down 1, N/S +50
Director Ruling	4♦X by North, Making 4, N/S +510
Committee Ruling	4♦X by North, Making 4, N/S +510

(1)	15-17 HCP
(2)	Clubs & a Major
(3)	BIT, estimated as 30 seconds by N/S & 7-8 seconds by E/W

The Facts: The Director was summoned at the end of the auction. North/South claimed that East had broken tempo after the 4♦ bid. E/W vehemently denied that East had broken tempo. West did state at the table that she had taken some time before doubling.

After the session, South approached the Director and asked about the ruling. The Director advised South that since they had not been called back after the hand, no ruling had been made. South then contended that due to West's admitted BIT, East should not be allowed to bid 4♠.

The Ruling: The Director polled three players from the Vanderbilt. All passed the double with the East hand. A slow double expressed doubt, so the action taken by East was demonstrably suggested by the BIT. Since the player poll determined that pass was a logical alternative to 4♠, the contract was adjusted to 4♦X by North, making 4, +510.

The Appeal: East/West appealed and all four players attended the hearing. West said that he had passed 4♦ expecting it to make and that he intended to pull if partner doubled because 4♠ was likely to be down only one trick. Further he said that he did not bid 4♠ directly for fear of pushing the opponents to a makeable 5♦. He felt that passing 4♦X was not logical.

North/South maintained that passing was a LA and that the Director's ruling was correct.

The Decision: The Appeals Committee determined that there had been a BIT and that the break did suggest doubt about the double of 4♦. The AC then determined that the BIT, by suggesting doubt, did suggest bidding 4♠. The AC then discussed whether passing 4♦X was a logical alternative. The AC noted that the people polled by the Director were unanimous in passing 4♦X. The AC also thought that pass was a LA and affirmed the adjustment of the result to 4♦X by North, +510. The AC discussed whether the appeal had merit and determined that it did.

The Committee: Michael Huston (non-voting chairman), Craig Allen, Ed Lazarus, Ron Gerard, Chris Moll, Jim Thurtell

Dissent by Ed Lazarus:

“I respectfully dissent from the decision of the Appeals Committee to revert the final contract to 4♦X for the following reasons:

1. West was a passed hand
2. West supported spades freely, showing at least 4-4 in the majors.
3. West was competing for a better matchpoint result when doubling 4♦.
4. The agreed upon out-of-tempo double by West was irrelevant since it is not a logical alternative for East to pass 4♦X with a 6-5 hand and no defensive values except the ♥K. The 2♣ overcall by East is usually 5-4 in two suits. East would have passed 4♦X if he held a 5-4 hand with some defensive values.”