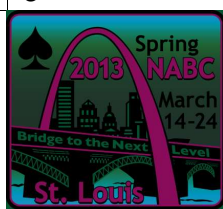


APPEAL	Regional Four
Subject	Break in Tempo
DIC	Bernie Gorkin
Event	Tuesday Open Pairs
Session	Afternoon
Date	March 19, 2013

BD#	28
VUL	N/S
DLR	W

136 masterpoints	
♠	KJ832
♥	Q2
♦	AJ1032
♣	9

6455 masterpoints	
♠	A
♥	1085
♦	K87
♣	AKQ1042



8139 masterpoints	
♠	Q106
♥	K4
♦	Q9654
♣	865

138 masterpoints	
♠	9754
♥	AJ9763
♦	--
♣	J73

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

Final Contract	4♠X by North
Opening Lead	♣5
Table Result	Down 1, E/W +200
Director Ruling	3NT by East, Making 3, E/W +400
Committee Ruling	3NT by East, Making 3, E/W +400

(1) Disputed Break in Tempo

The Facts: The director was called during the auction, when 4♠ was bid and again at the end of the hand. West said North “had a slight break prior to the pass of 3NT”. East said it was “longer than a slight break”. North denied pausing and South denied noticing a pause

The Ruling: Initially, the ruling was that the North hand suggests that a pause had taken place, that South has logical alternatives to bidding 4♠, and that a break by North demonstrably suggested bidding. However, the director ruled to let the result stand, as 3NT can be beaten, and therefore E/W were not damaged, as they would not receive a better score in 3NT. E/W wished to appeal. However, in consultation with E/W and other players, it was determined that although a 3NT contract might fail, it is very easy for the defense to let it make, and, in fact, it did indeed make several times. Therefore, the ruling was changed to 3NT by East, making 3, E/W +400, per Law 16.

The Appeal: North/South appealed, after the director informed them of the reconsideration to adjust the score. The reviewer met with N/S, who were trying to get experience by playing in the Open, rather the novice game. In asking North about whether she had any thing to think about after the 3NT, she admitted that she briefly thought about whether it would be worth it to bid, although she denied it causing her to break tempo. N/S were explained the law about unauthorized information, and were only appealing the claim of a break in tempo.

The Decision: The reviewer conducted a poll of players of similar strength, playing in team events. Given the hand held by North, and the auction up to 3NT, many took a moment to decide, with one choosing to bid. A separate poll with the South hand found many not bidding. Given the polling information, the panel decided that the conditions of Law 16 were met, and the director's ruling was upheld.

The panel decided Appeal without Merit Warning was not appropriate since the original table ruling had been reversed.

Players polled by the panel: 6 players under 200 points

The Panel: Kevin Perkins (reviewer), Charlie MacCracken, Su Doe