

<b>Subject of Appeal:</b>	Disputed Claim	<b>Case:</b>	R3
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<b>Event</b>	Mini Blue Ribbon Pairs	<b>Event DIC</b>	Peter Wilke
<b>Date</b>	11/29/2017	<b>Session</b>	Second Qualifying

### Auction

West	North	East	South
		2♣ <sup>1</sup>	2♦
Dbl	3♦	3NT	Pass
Pass	4♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

### Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

1: 10-15 HCP, 6+ ♣, or 5+ ♣ & 4 card major

### Hand Record

<b>Board</b>	<b>10</b>	N	3400 MPS		
<b>Dealer</b>	<b>E</b>	♠	AJ64		
		♥	32		
<b>Vul</b>	<b>Both</b>	♦	10732		
		♣	J52		
W	2800 MPS			E	1900 MPS
♠	109875			♠	Q3
♥	AJ754			♥	109
♦	4			♦	K95
♣	63			♣	AKQ1087
		S	500 MPS		
		♠	K2		
		♥	KQ83		
		♦	AQJ86		
		♣	95		

<b>Final Contract</b>	<b>Result of Play</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Opening Lead</b>
4♦X by S			♣3

### Facts Determined at the Table

The Director was called in the following two-card ending with declarer needing the last two tricks. The lead was in Dummy.

	♠ 6	
	♥ —	
	♦ 7	
	♣ —	
♠ 9		♠ —
♥ A		♥ —
♦ —		♦ —
♣ —		♣ 10 8
	♠ —	
	♥ K	
	♦ 8	
	♣ —	

Declarer claimed the last two tricks. Declarer and dummy said that declarer's statement was "I have a diamond and a heart." Declarer said that with trumps drawn, he intended to crossruff the last two tricks, though he did not use the term "crossruff." West said that declarer said he had a diamond and the "good king of hearts," which if played in that order would give the defense one more trick

## Director Ruling

The Director ruled that the declarer's claim was valid but poorly stated. With trump known to be drawn, drawing both of the declaring side's trump at once to play the king of hearts was below what was allowed by Law 70A. He awarded both tricks to the declarer, making 4, N/S +710.

Director's Ruling	4♦X by S, Made 4, N/S +710
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## The Review

E/W appealed the ruling and all four players attended the review. The players could not agree on the order of tricks played to lead up to the ending. All four players agreed that:

- 1) The opening lead was a club.
- 2) Declarer drew trump early in the hand.
- 3) A heart was led to the queen and West ducked.
- 4) After drawing trump, declarer did not run his trump at any point as if to set up for a squeeze or a similar play;
- 5) West won trick 10 with the jack of hearts and led the ten of spades to dummy's jack at trick 11, putting declarer on the board in the two-card ending in which the claim happened.

All four players agreed that declarer certainly knew there were no more trump outstanding. E/W insisted that declarer's statement (the "good" king of hearts) indicated that he had forgotten that the ♥A was still out. South said that he had stated what cards were left in his hand as he faced them and never intended that statement to indicate his line of play.

## Panel Findings

The Reviewer polled three players in the three-card ending described by the players and told them that the king of hearts was high and that trumps were in. Each of the players won the jack of spades at trick 11 and crossruffed the last two tricks. When asked about the king of hearts, all three players indicated that they had two trump and did not need the heart king.

The Panel felt that although the declarer might well have forgotten that the ace of hearts had not been played, with all four players admitting that declarer certainly knew there were no more trumps out, it fell beneath the standard of "careless or inferior" play cited in the footnote to Law 70A not to crossruff the last two tricks. The table ruling was ruled to stand.

E/W were given an Appeal Without Merit Warning. The Panel found no information to support the argument that the table ruling was incorrect

Panel Decision	4♦X by S, Made 4, N/S +710
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## Panel Members

Reviewer	Eric Bell
Member	Matt Koltnow
Member	David Metcalf

## Commentary

**Goldsmith:** If South really said, "I have a diamond and the good king of hearts," that's a claim statement that he intended to take those tricks. Furthermore, if he thought the ♥K was good, it is not careless or inferior to play a diamond; that play will clearly work. Down one. The Directors' polls were invalid, because they couldn't poll anyone who had made that claim statement. Of course, nearly no one would, but this South did.

**Marques:** It's a matter of judgment about what was the claim statement and, in the TD's opinion, the intention of declarer. I'm ok with judging that declarer wanted to crossruff, and awarding the two tricks to him, as I would be ok giving one to the defense. In this case, the poll looks like overkill with doubtful conclusions, because if the TD judges that the player said "a diamond and the good king of hearts," then compare with Case N9... why wouldn't it be careless to play the diamond first? Were any of the polled players told to be careless and play in an inferior way? I have serious doubts that the poll was valid, the way it was apparently made, and I completely disagree with the AWMW

**Meiracker:** The claim was poorly stated but correct. This is an example of an AWMW

**Wildavsky:** Declarer claimed in a simple position where he had the rest of the tricks. He could equally well have just shown his hand. He was attempting to speed up the game and his opponents' obstinacy ending up slowing it down instead.

I don't think the Panel's poll was useful. It asked the pollees to assume that the ♥K was high, a fact in dispute. If declarer, in fact, believed the ♥K was high then he might equally have led either card to trick 12, regardless of the poll results. On the facts as presented, though, I see no compelling evidence that he believed it or stated it.

I would rule N/S +710, though for a different reason than the TD and the Panel.

**Willenken:** I agree with the ruling but not the AWMW. The evidence indicates that South made a sloppy claim statement which E/W misconstrued. Therefore, E/W could easily have believed that the Director was wrong on the law.

**Woolsey:** Obviously there is nothing wrong with this claim. E/W fully deserve their AWMW.