

<b>Subject of Appeal:</b>	Disputed Claim	<b>Case:</b>	R1
---------------------------	----------------	--------------	----

<b>Event</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday A/B open Pairs	<b>Event DIC</b>	Nancy Watkins
<b>Date</b>	03/22/2014	<b>Session</b>	First

**Auction**

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

**Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention**


**Hand Record**

<b>Board</b>	<b>6</b>	N	950 mps		
<b>Dealer</b>	<b>E</b>	♠ J84	♥ 32		
<b>Vul</b>	<b>E/W</b>	♦ A9	♣ K109654		
W	2500 mps			E	3100 mps
♠ A972	♥ J75			♠ 5	♥ K9
♦ Q5	♣ Q832			♦ J876432	♣ AJ7
		S	9150 mps		
		♠ KQ1063	♥ AQ10864		
		♦ K10	♣ (void)		

<b>Final Contract</b>	<b>Result of Play</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Opening Lead</b>
4♥ by S			♦ Q

**Facts Determined at the Table**

The director was summoned by East/West at the sixth trick, when Declarer faced their hand. East was on lead and the defense had already won three tricks. South stated he would draw trumps, but made no statement as to what card he would play on a diamond lead. The remaining cards at this point were:

	♠ 8	
	♥ 3	
	♦ —	
	♣ K 10 9 6 5 4	
♠ 9 7		♠ —
♥ 7 5		♥ —
♦ —		♦ 8 7 6 4 3
♣ Q 8 3 2		♣ A J 7
	♠ K Q 10	
	♥ A Q 8 6 4	
	♦ —	
	♣ —	

## Director Ruling

The director considered that since the claimer had not mentioned trumping high when he made his original statement, his awareness of the potential problem on the hand might be a “doubtful point” that should be resolved against the claimer (Law 70A). Since trumping high was not mentioned in the original claim statement, it should only be allowed if failing to do so would be worse than “careless or inferior for the class of player involved” (Law 70D1). The director ruled that it was not clear that declarer would trump high if a diamond were returned, and ruled that 4♥ was down one, E/W +50.

<b>Director’s Ruling</b>	<b>4♥ by S, Down 1, E/W +50</b>
--------------------------	---------------------------------

## The Appeal

N/S appealed the director's ruling. All four players attended the review. The reviewer discovered that the play to the first five tricks was ♦Q opening lead losing to dummy's Ace; low trump to the ten and jack: ♦5 to the jack and king; ♠3 to West's ace; spade returned and trumped by East with the king. At this point South claimed as described above. The director was called immediately. South asked the opponents what the problem was, but they remained silent and did not reveal their hands. When the director arrived, South pushed the ♥AQ8 separately from the rest of his hand. When the possibility of a diamond being returned was brought up in the director's presence, South said he would trump high if that happened. When asked in screening why he didn't mention that in his original claim statement, South said he thought it was obvious and he didn't think of saying it specifically.

## Panel Findings

The panel considered whether this declarer might have lost touch with the potential danger of the hand at the point he claimed, thus creating a “doubtful point” as to whether he would trump high if a diamond were returned. Arguing against him was his failure to mention it at the point of his original claim, and in the period of time between the claim being questioned and the director arriving at the table.

However, the panel believed several factors argued in favor of allowing the claim. Clearly by his statement declarer knew trump(s) were outstanding, and they were almost certainly on his left. As well, he had seen West lead the ♦Q without the jack so the danger of West having no more diamonds was present. Finally, when the director arrived and before he had seen his opponents' hands or heard their objections he pushed the three high trumps away from the rest of his faced hand. These factors combined persuaded the panel that this declarer had a firm grasp on what was happening and trumping a diamond return high was not a “doubtful point”. The score was adjusted to 4♥ by South, making four, N/S +420.

<b>Panel Decision</b>	<b>4♥ by S, Made 4, N/S +420</b>
-----------------------	----------------------------------

## Panel Members

<b>Reviewer</b>	Matt Smith
<b>Member</b>	Sol Weinstein
<b>Member</b>	Charlie MacCracken