

Subject of Appeal:	Disputed Claim	Case:	R1
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Event	Grand National Teams, Flight A	Event DIC	Matt Smith
Date	08/02/2013	Session	Round of 16, First Session

Auction

West	North	East	South
			3♦
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♣
Pass	6♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Explanation of Special Calls and Points of Contention

Hand Record

Board	3	N	5050 MPS		
Dealer	S	♠	A		
		♥	AK9632		
		♦	J86		
Vul	E/W	♣	AK6		
W	1480 MPS			E	1500 MPS
♠	Q653			♠	KJ1042
♥	Q85			♥	4
♦	2			♦	K3
♣	J10543			♣	Q9872
		S	4790 MPS		
		♠	987		
		♥	J107		
		♦	AQ109754		
		♣	(void)		

Final Contract	Result of Play	Score	Opening Lead
6♦ by S			♠ 5

Facts Determined at the Table

Declarer won the spade lead in dummy, called for the club ace and played a heart from hand and exposed the rest of hand, saying "I have the tricks." After silence from opponents, she made the statement, "I'll play a diamond to the ace, ruff a spade, and play a diamond". The director was called, and she repeated the statement. When the opponents asked about the spade loser left in hand, declarer said she would ruff it in dummy. When the opponents objected that dummy would have no more trumps, dummy volunteered that the spade can be discarded on the good king of clubs.

Director Ruling

In a case of a disputed claim, the TD must distinguish between a poor claim and a poorly stated claim. In the table director's view, the declarer had lost focus here, as their statement would result in going down one trick. Per Law 70, that result was assigned.

Director's Ruling	6♦ by S, Down 1, E/W +50
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The Appeal

N/S appealed the ruling stating that declarer knew she had all the tricks but for the king of trump, but that she just had trouble explaining it.

Panel Findings

Law 70 instructs the director to adjudicate a claim as equitably as possible to both sides, but to resolve any doubtful points against the claimer. South's clarified line of play results in her going down one which creates a doubtful point. The panel agreed with the table director that it appeared claimer lost focus, so the table ruling was upheld.

Panel Decision	6♦ by S, Down 1, E/W +50
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Panel Members

Reviewer	Kevin Perkins
Member	Charlie MacCracken
Member	Ken Van Cleve