

APPEAL	Non-NABC+ Five
Subject	Claim or Played Card
DIC	Chris Patrias
Event	0-5000i Blue Ribbon Pairs
Session	First Qualifying
Date	November 25, 2008

BD#	15
VUL	N/S
DLR	South

1,993 Masterpoints	
♠	A K 9 6 3 2
♥	8 6
♦	A Q 9 8
♣	5

1,198 Masterpoints		Fall 2008 Boston, MA	4,266 Masterpoints	
♠	J T 8		♠	5
♥	Q 9 4		♥	A K 3 2
♦	J 5 4		♦	K T 7 2
♣	K Q 8 3		♣	A 7 6 2

4,912 Masterpoints	
♠	Q 7 4
♥	J T 7 5
♦	6 3
♣	J T 9 4

West	North	East	South
			Pass
Pass	1♠	Dbl	Pass
2♣	2♠	3♣	3♠
4♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Final Contract	4♣
Opening Lead	♠K
Table Result	Down 1, E/W - 50
Director Ruling	4♣ W, down 1, E/W - 50
Panel Ruling	4♣ W, down 1, E/W - 50

The Facts: The director was called after a club was led from dummy (East) at trick 12. West played 4♣. He was in dummy after trick 11. Dummy's cards were the ♣6 and the ♦7. North had the ♦Q and a spade. Neither South nor West held a trump or a diamond higher than the queen.

Declarer sat for a while and at the urging of North to play a card, West called for the club, which was good.

E/W alleged that North played the ♦Q to the twelfth trick. North stated that he was claiming the thirteenth trick with the ♦Q for down one.

The Ruling: The director determined that North was claiming without stating a line of play. In accordance with Law 70D1 and the footnote to Law 70, the director judged that there was no alternate normal play (i.e. to save the ♦Q for trick twelve) and therefore awarded the thirteenth trick to N/S.

The Appeal: All four players attended the hearing.

Declarer agreed that he sat for a long time in the two-card ending. His only explanation was that he was trying to remember if the diamond was good. Both he and dummy were adamant that North faced the ♦Q on the table.

According to N/S, everyone knew the contract was down one, yet declarer sat for over a minute staring at dummy. Finally North said, "Play a card." After declarer called for the good trump, North showed the ♦Q with the intent to claim the thirteenth trick not play it to the twelfth trick.

The Decision: There was a lengthy altercation at the table before the director could obtain all the facts. Both sides had different stories. After about ten minutes, the director determined that this was a claim by North. The panel found no facts that would indicate his judgment was incorrect. Therefore (see Law 70E), the director's ruling was upheld and the result of 4♣ by West, down one, E/W minus 50 was affirmed.

The Panel: Bernie Gorkin (Reviewer) and John Ashton.