

APPEAL	NABC+ SIXTEEN
Subject	Claim
DIC	Steve Bates
Event	Mixed Board a Match Teams
Session	First Qualifying
Date	July 30, 2009

BD#	<b>11</b>
VUL	<b>None</b>
DLR	<b>South</b>

<b>Brian Glubok</b>	
♠	Q T
♥	A Q J 8 4 2
♦	7 6 4
♣	7 3

<b>Sylvia Caley</b>		<b>Summer 2009 Washington D.C.</b>	<b>Simon Kantor</b>	
♠	A J 8 7 5 4		♠	6 3
♥	7 6 3		♥	K 9
♦	K J 9		♦	Q T 8 5
♣	Q		♣	T 8 6 5 4

<b>Connie Goldberg</b>	
♠	K 9 2
♥	T 5
♦	A 3 2
♣	A K J 9 2

West	North	East	South
			1NT
2♦ <sup>1</sup>	Pass	2♥ <sup>2</sup>	Pass
2♠	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Final Contract	<b>4♥ by North</b>
Opening Lead	<b>♠6</b>
Table Result	<b>North claimed 4♥ making 5, N/S +450</b>
Director Ruling	<b>4♥ N made 4, N/S +420</b>
Committee Ruling	<b>4♥ N made 4, N/S +420</b>

(1)	Alerted – single suited major.
(2)	Alerted.

**The Facts:** The director was called at the point of the claim:  
The play: (Lead underlined)

Trick	East	South	West	North
1.	<u>♠6</u>	♠2	♠J	♠Q
2.	♣4	♣A	♣Q	<u>♣3</u>
3.	♥K	<u>♥T</u>	♥6	♥2
4.	<u>♠3</u>	♠9	♠A	♠T
5.	♦5	♠K	<u>♠4</u>	♥Q

At this point North claimed the remaining tricks saying, "I'll throw my losers on Dummy's high black cards." West immediately objected and called the director.

**The Ruling:** In accordance with Law 70A and E, the director disallowed the claim and awarded one trick to E/W thus adjusting the result to 4♥ by North making four, N/S + 420 for both sides.

**The Appeal:** N/S appealed the director's decision. All four players attended the hearing. North said the clock was already on the next round and he always had club finesse in reserve in his mind.

West noted that he might have false-carded with the QT of clubs.

**The Decision:** Law 70E says you may not play one opponent for a specific card unless one opponent has or will show out on normal play or unless it would be irrational to do otherwise. The committee thought the declarer would likely have finessed the club ten but that the play of the club king would not be irrational. Therefore the committee ruled as the director had, setting a score of 4♥ by North making four, N/S plus 420 for both sides.

The committee found that the appeal had merit.

**The Committee:** Aaron Silverstein (Chair), Mark Feldman, Robb Gordon, Abby Heitner and Bob Jones.

**Commentary:**

**Goldsmith** Right. Sorry, North, but if you intend to take a finesse after claiming, state it in your line of play. The finding of merit is generous.

**Polisner** Who knows what Declarer had in his mind. He didn't even make a statement about the outstanding trump which could have all been with East giving him another loser. Correct ruling and decision.

**Rigal** I wish I could give split scores here but I cannot. I cannot imagine giving E/W anything other than minus 450 but I may legally be obligated to. Since even top experts are allowed to miscount their tricks I'd punish N/S by giving them the adjusted score but in my heart I'm not convinced.

**Smith** I think the committee clearly ruled the right way according to law, but I am not so convinced that this appeal had any substantial merit.

**Wildavsky** I see no merit to the appeal – the ruling seems clear as a matter of law.

**Wolff** Why does this appeal have merit? At the very least the declarer should say "finessing the nine of clubs."