

Contributed by Peter Farley

An interesting situation arose recently (not at our club) where with three tricks left to play the declarer claimed, holding A Q x of trumps. An opponent objected because they held the 10. The director was called and ruled that the claim was valid. The matter was referred to the appeal committee who ruled one trick lost to the 10. It was actually the wrong decision in this case.

Law 70C in the Rules Book is quite clear. For a trick to be awarded to the opponents three conditions must be met. 1. the claimer made no statement about the outstanding trump; and 2. it is at all likely that the claimer was unaware that an opponent had a trump; and 3. a trick could be lost to that trump by any normal play.

Clearly conditions 1 and 2 were met but condition 3 was not, therefore the claim was valid.

Law 70E2 covers the order in which a director shall deem a suit to be played if this was not stated and the Bridge Manual on page B26 states that this is to be "top down".