

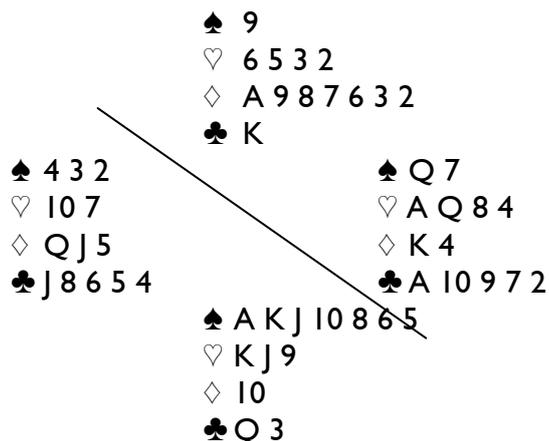
Appeal No. 6
New Zealand v England

Appeals Committee:

Joan Gerard (Chairman, USA), Jens Auken (Denmark), Rich Colker (Scribe, USA), Ernesto d'Orsi (Brazil), Jeff Polisner (USA)

Bermuda Bowl, Round Robin

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vulnerable.



West	North	East	South
<i>T. Townsend</i>	<i>M. Cornell</i>	<i>D. Gold</i>	<i>D. Crombie</i>
		INT	Dbl
2♣	2♦	2♥	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

Comments: INT was strong. South erroneously intended his double as penalty and Alerted it as such (he thought East had opened a *weak* notrump). North (correctly) Alerted the double as showing clubs and another suit. West's intended 2♣ as natural (due to the misinformation he had been given) while East interpreted and explained the bid as "Stayman," asking for a major, and consequently bid his hearts over 2♦.

Contract: 4♠ by South

Result: 4♠ +1, +650 for N/S

The Facts: The Director was called by West at the end of the play, when the different explanations on the two sides of the screen were discovered. West told the Director that he would have passed the double if he had been correctly informed that it showed clubs and another suit and was not for penalty.

The Director: Determined that without the 2♣ bid North's 2♦ would not have been a "free bid" implying some values, making it easier for South to jump to game. Had E/W both been given the correct explanation of the double and remained quiet for the rest of the auction South might not have bid 4♠.

Ruling: The contract was adjusted to 3♠ by South +2, +200 for N/S.

Relevant Laws: 75 and 12.

North/South appealed.

Present: All four players and both team captains.

The Players: South said that after a penalty double of a weak notrump (which he mistakenly thought East had opened) the auction was forcing on his side through 2♠. So even if West passed his double North's 2♦ bid would have been forcing, though it would neither have shown nor denied values. Subsequently, however, in order to distinguish good hands from weaker ones North was not permitted to try to improve the contract by bidding on over 2♠ (though presumably he could have "corrected" to 3♣) without constructive values. Thus, while North's 2♦ bid would show nothing his subsequent 3♦ bid would show useful values, and South would have then jumped to 4♠ based on this authorized information. So N/S would have reached game even had E/W been correctly told the double showed clubs and another suit.

The Committee: Based on the methods South described, which were partly confirmed by his system notes, it was believed that N/S might have reached game even without the misinformation, though by no means was it certain. The Committee judged that reaching game was probably twice as likely as not.

The Committee's decision: The Committee assigned a split score (as permitted by Law 12C3) in which 4♠ +1 was weighted two-thirds and 3♠ +2 was weighted one-third, yielding a composite score of $\frac{2}{3} \times 650$ and $\frac{1}{3} \times 200 = +500$ for N/S (and the reciprocal of -500 for E/W).

Deposit: Returned