

BRIDGE BITES

from The American Contract Bridge League

A DOUBLE ORDER OF DUCK

By: Brian Gunnell

	♠ K74 ♥ A987 ♦ A9743 ♣ Q	
♠ QJT3 ♥ 4 ♦ JT6 ♣ T8652	North West East South	♠ 9865 ♥ 53 ♦ Q8 ♣ A9743
	♠ A2 ♥ KQJT62 ♦ K52 ♣ KJ	

None Vulnerable

South West North East

1♦ Pass

1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass

4NT Pass 5♥ Pass

6♥ Pass Pass Pass

West leads the ♠Q and, when Dummy goes down, Declarer can see that his 6♥ contract is quite hopeless. The ♣A must be lost and there is no way to avoid a Diamond loser. Declarer will win the opening Spade, draw trumps and then cash the ♦K and ♦A before

conceding the third round of Diamonds. When West wins the ♦J, he will quickly shift to a Club, and East's ♣A scores the setting trick before Declarer's Clubs disappear on the long Diamonds. Down one.

But that's not what happened! It's true, looking at all four hands, that 6♥ *should* go down, but West was looking at only two hands. Taking advantage of that, Declarer came up with a truly brilliant deception. He ducked the opening lead in both hands! The defense can now cash the ♣A to beat the contract, but it never occurred to West that his partner might have the ♣A and not the ♠A. So, naturally enough, West persisted with Spades. Imagine West's surprise when Declarer's Ace won the second Spade trick! Next, trumps were drawn, a Diamond was pitched on the ♠K, the ♦K was cashed, then the ♦A, and a Diamond was ruffed. Now there were two good Diamonds in Dummy, on which Declarer was able to pitch his losing Clubs. Making 12 tricks!

A most unusual hand! Declarer started out with an inescapable loser in Diamonds and another in Clubs. But, thanks to that lovely first round double duck, he ended up losing a Spade but nothing else!

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