

BRIDGE BITES

from The American Contract Bridge League

AN "OOPS!" MOMENT

By: Brian Gunnell

	♠ 8754 ♥ ♦ KQJT52 ♣ AKQ	
♠ J63 ♥ KQJT87 ♦ 73 ♣ 32	North West East Declarer	♠ 9 ♥ A9543 ♦ A98 ♣ T964
	♠ AKQT2 ♥ 62 ♦ 64 ♣ J875	

Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
	2♥	3♦	4♥
4♠	Pass	6♠	All Pass

West's 2♥ was a so-called Weak Two, typically showing around 6-10 points and six cards in the bid suit. After that, N-S stumbled into 6♠ which turned out to be a great contract. At least it was until Declarer botched the play.

West led the ♥K and North tabled a rather yummy Dummy. "Perfect!" said Declarer. He ruffed the Heart on the board, drew two rounds of trumps and then, when East showed out on the second round, he said to himself "Oops!" or "Oh, rats!" or something like that. What had just gone wrong? Declarer still had a Heart loser in his hand, so he could not draw the last trump and knock out the ♦A ... in that case the defense would cash a Heart. Nor could Declarer ruff the Heart loser in Dummy ... in that case he would be unable to get back to hand to draw the last trump and, one way or another, West would score his ♠J. Down one. Oops, indeed!

Declarer would have made his contract if he had postponed his celebration of Dummy's yumminess and instead asked himself "What can possibly go wrong?" The answer is a 3-1 trump break and having realized that he would draw just one round of trumps. Then he would ruff the remaining Heart loser on the board and still have a trump in Dummy with which to return to hand, before drawing West's last trump, and setting up the Diamonds.

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