

BRIDGE BITES

from The American Contract Bridge League

AN ESSENTIAL PRECAUTION

By: Brian Gunnell

	♠ K ♥ J854 ♦ J75 ♣ AKQJ6	
♠ Q932 ♥ 9763 ♦ A6 ♣ 875	North West East Declarer	♠ 854 ♥ K ♦ KQ982 ♣ T942
	♠ AJT76 ♥ AQT2 ♦ T43 ♣ 3	

Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

N-S zip into 4♥, and West sensibly leads the unbid suit. After the defense has cashed three Diamonds, East exits a Spade and now the contract depends on Declarer picking up the trumps for no losers. Any thoughts?

Of course, Declarer will finesse against East for the ♥K and the lazy way of doing that is to run the Jack around, thereby keeping the lead in Dummy for a repeat finesse, if necessary. But, alas for Declarer, there is no repeat finesse! East's King covers the ♥J and, when East shows out on the second Heart, Declarer realizes that he has blundered! Now West's Heart Nine will eventually score a trick and Declarer is down one.

It was necessary for Declarer to lead a *low* Heart from the board, an essential precaution against East having a singleton King. This is the kind of problem that nobody gets wrong when they see it in the newspaper. But in the heat of battle it is a different story, as evidenced at a recent club duplicate game where four (embarrassed) Declarers managed to lose a trump trick and go down.

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