

BRIDGE BITES

from The American Contract Bridge League

ROLE REVERSAL

By: Brian Gunnell

	♠ AK4 ♥ T94 ♦ T5432 ♣ AK	
♠ Q72 ♥ J852 ♦ KQ6 ♣ 843	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ J6 ♥ 763 ♦ J987 ♣ QT62
	♠ T9853 ♥ AKQ ♦ A ♣ J975	

Both Vulnerable

<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	4♣	All Pass

At rubber bridge, you win the Club lead, cash a second Club, then the top two trumps, and later take a Club ruff. The dust clears and it's 11 easy tricks. Now let's replay this at duplicate scoring, where a second overtrick would be the difference between a great board and a merely average one.

If Declarer is looking for 12 tricks, it won't do to take a second Club ruff on the board, that would promote a second trump trick for the defense. No, instead of taking two ruffs in the short hand, Declarer does better to take *three* Diamond ruffs in her own (the long) hand. Here is the sequence of plays:

- ♣A wins opening lead
- Cash ♦A
- Cash the Hearts
- Cross to the ♠A
- Ruff a Diamond
- Cross to the ♠K
- Ruff a Diamond
- Cross to the ♠K

That's 10 tricks in, and here's the end-position:

	<i>Dummy:</i> ♠4 ♦T5	
<i>West:</i> ♠Q ♥J ♣8		<i>East:</i> ♦J ♣QT
	<i>Declarer:</i> ♠T ♣J9	

Another Diamond is ruffed by Declarer and West has two choices:

- If he overruffs then Dummy is good
- If he pitches a Club, then Declarer leads a Club and scores Dummy's low trump *en passant*

Usually, we seek extra tricks by taking a ruff or two in the hand with the short trumps (which is usually Dummy). But occasionally, as here, there is a reversal of roles, and we go for multiple ruffs in the long hand, the so-called "dummy reversal".

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