

BRIDGE BITES

from The American Contract Bridge League

A MATTER OF ENTRIES

By: Brian Gunnell

N-S Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1NT	2♠	3♥	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

	♠ Q ♥ QJT95 ♦ A642 ♣ 865	
♠ KT9543 ♥ 862 ♦ 9 ♣ KJ2	North West East Declarer	♠ 876 ♥ K74 ♦ QJT8 ♣ Q74
	♠ AJ2 ♥ A3 ♦ K753 ♣ AT93	

West's frisky 2♠ overcall is brushed aside and South becomes Declarer in 3NT. West leads the Spade Ten, won in Dummy. There's a trap for the unwary on this deal, and today's Declarer fell right into it. But our readers won't, will they?

Dummy's ♠Q won the opening lead and Declarer could see that it was plain sailing to at least nine tricks, his minimum haul being two Spades, four Hearts, two Diamonds and a Club. Never one to turn up his nose at an overtrick or two, Declarer ran the ♥Q at Trick 2. It seemed like good news when that finesse won, but in fact Declarer had just bungled the contract. He crossed to the ♥A and, when the King did not fall he needed two entries to the board, one to knock out the ♥K, the other to enjoy the established Hearts. Alas, he had only one such entry, and was destined for an ignominious down two. Yes, the winning line was simple enough, Declarer must play the ♥A at Trick 2, then a low Heart to the board.

Now, let's replay the hand with the Heart King and Eight exchanged between the E-W hands. Let's say that, as before, Declarer goofs mightily by running the ♥Q at Trick 2. West must duck the trick! If West makes the mistake of grabbing his King then Declarer's misplay will go unpunished.

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