

BRIDGE BITES

from The American Contract Bridge League

A LITTLE WHITE LIE

By: Brian Gunnell

On defense, sometimes a little white lie is necessary in order to point Partner in the right direction. No more clues, here's your problem:

♠ K86			
♥ KQ6			
♦ KQJT6			
♣ 76			
<i>Dummy</i>		♠ 9732	
<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>	♥ T982	
		♦ A8	
<i>South</i>		♣ 843	

None Vulnerable

South West North East

1♥ 2♣ 2♦ Pass

2♥ Pass 4♥ Pass

Pass Pass

You are sitting East, trying to beat 4♥. Partner leads the ♣A. Where can you find four defensive tricks? No doubt Declarer has the ♠A and the ♥A for that opening bid, so at first glance it may appear

that the best the defense can do is to take its two Club tricks and the ♦A. Any ideas for an extra trick? OK, now that you've solved the problem, the full hand:

		♠ K86			
		♥ KQ6			
		♦ KQJT6			
		♣ 76			
♠ QJT5		<i>Dummy</i>		♠ 9732	
♥ ---		<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>	♥ T982	
♦ 7432				♦ A8	
♣ AKT95		<i>South</i>		♣ 843	
		♠ A4			
		♥ AJ7543			
		♦ 95			
		♣ QJ2			

That's right, at Trick 1 East false-cards with the ♣8, showing a doubleton! East's plan is to conjure up a trump trick out of thin air. Look what happens! West next cashes the ♣K, and East completes his fake high-low. Then West plays a third round of Clubs and who can blame Declarer for ruffing that trick high in Dummy? Obviously he doesn't want to get overruffed by East, and, anyway, squandering that high trump costs nothing if the trumps are 3-1 or 2-2.

But they are 4-0, so East gets a trump trick and it's down one!

It was necessary to fool Partner as well as Declarer. If East had signaled honestly in Clubs, then, at Trick 3, West would no doubt have shifted to the ♠Q, hoping that East has the Ace and trying to grab a couple of Spade tricks before they disappear on the Diamonds.

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