

BRIDGE BITES

from The American Contract Bridge League

A TRUMP DEMOTION

By: Brian Gunnell

If you've been following this month's series of articles, then by now you are familiar with trump promotions. They are not so difficult once you get the hang of them, but it takes real talent to organize a trump *demotion*! Observe this tragic E-W performance:

	♠ T64 ♥ T832 ♦ 3 ♣ AQJ87	
♠ ♥ AK ♦ Q97652 ♣ T9432	North West East Declarer	♠ QJ3 ♥ QJ976 ♦ AJT ♣ 65
	♠ AK98752 ♥ 54 ♦ K84 ♣ K	

E-W Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Looking just at N-S, playing in 4♠, you can see 3 top losers in the red suits. Of course, when tackling the trump suit, Declarer plays the ♠A first. Most (89%) of the time trumps will be 2-1 and there will be 10 easy tricks. But this deal is in the unlucky 11%, and so Declarer is destined to go down one.

But, no! Here come E-W, galloping to Declarer's rescue! West's opening lead is the ♥K, followed by the ♥A. This sequence of plays cleverly shows a doubleton in the E-W methods (with a longer suit, this pair would lead the Ace first). Then a Diamond switch is won by East's Ace, and a Heart comes back. Declarer ruffs resignedly with the Nine and, when that unexpectedly holds, the jig is up! Declarer now has no trouble working out the trump position, and crosses to Dummy (twice if necessary) to finesse East out of his ♠QJ3. Making 10 tricks!

It was not too smart of West to advertise a doubleton Heart when he had no trumps with which to ruff the third round. And East, knowing the trump situation, might have done better not to play that third round of Hearts (although a suspicious Declarer would surely have smelled a rat if East had *not* done so). So, there you have it, the dreaded trump demotion!

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