BRIDGE BITES from The American Contract Bridge League

A SPORTING DOUBLE

By: Brian Gunnell

N-S Vulnerable

South   West   North   East
2♥   3♦   4♥   Pass
Pass   5♦   5♥   Dbl
All Pass

West led the ♦A, then the ♦K which was ruffed by Declarer. With one Ace already lost, and the ♦A to be lost later, Declarer could not afford to lose a trump trick. Given the 5-0 break, avoiding a trump loser might seem impossible, but watch what happened! After ruffing the Diamond at Trick 2, Declarer lost to the ♦A, won the Spade return, and ran the ♥T. The good news was that this held the trick and, when West showed out, that (surprisingly) wasn’t really bad news at all!

Next, a Spade was ruffed, and three Clubs were cashed, ending in Dummy. Here was the end position (West was merely a spectator at this point):

Dummy   North
♠64
♥A
♦T

Declarer   ♥KJ9
♠QJ65

East   ♥Q743

Dummy led a Diamond and East now had to suffer the ignominy of (a) being forced to ruff that in front of Declarer; then (b) under-ruffing when Dummy ruffed a Club; and finally (c) at Trick 12, falling victim to a Trump Coup, being obliged to ruff with his Q7 in front of Declarer’s KJ! It really was most unsporting of Declarer to play the hand so well.

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