

BRIDGE BITES

from The American Contract Bridge League

A SPORTING DOUBLE

By: Brian Gunnell

	♠ KQ642 ♥ AT ♦ T86 ♣ AK3	
♠ JT7 ♥ ♦ AKQJ532 ♣ 874	North West East Declarer	♠ A98 ♥ Q7432 ♦ 97 ♣ T92
	♠ 53 ♥ KJ9865 ♦ 4 ♣ QJ65	

N-S Vulnerable

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

We suspect that East doubled 5♥ with great glee, no doubt anticipating a sizeable penalty. In some quarters this is ironically known as a “sporting double”, meaning that it is far from sporting and actually a sure thing. Well, most of the time, anyway!

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	♠64 ♥A ♦T	
		East ♥Q743
Declarer	♥KJ9 ♣6	

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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