

BRIDGE BITES

from The American Contract Bridge League

ONE WINNER TOO MANY

By: Brian Gunnell

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| | ♠ J9 ♥ AJ98 ♦ K87632 ♣ 8 | |
| ♠ QT42 ♥ ♦ JT4 ♣ JT9542 | <i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i> | ♠ K753 ♥ 543 ♦ AQ95 ♣ 76 |
| | ♠ A86 ♥ KQT762 ♦ ♣ AKQ3 | |

Both Vulnerable

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| <i>South</i> | <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> |
| 1♥ | Pass | 3♥ | Pass |
| 6♥ | All Pass | | |

South might have opened the bidding with an artificial game-forcing 2♣, but one way or the other it seems that N-S should get to slam on these cards. In fact 7♥ is a fine contract, though a hard one to reach. Sadly, our Declarer even managed to go down in 6♥, which took a lot of doing!

Against 6♥, West led the ♣J, Dummy went down and South rued the missed grand slam. Even so, this being a duplicate bridge event, making the overtrick was important. With that in mind, he counted four side-suit tricks, and could make the rest with ruffs back and forth. In fact, with 10 trumps between the two hands he even had one trump more than was needed to score 13 tricks. So, he cashed the ♥A, followed by his two remaining Club winners. Tragically for Declarer, East ruffed the third round of Clubs and fired back a trump. Suddenly, Declarer's 13 tricks had been compressed into 11 and he was down one!

Declarer's drawing of a round of trumps served no useful purpose whatsoever, the missing trumps being miniscule and offering no overruffing threat. Also, cashing that third Club was a needless risk, Declarer could count up to 13 with just three side-suit tricks and ten trumps. Making the overtrick was simple enough: Win the ♣A, cash the ♣K (pitching a Spade), cash the ♠A, and merrily cross-ruff the rest of the hand for all the tricks. That ♠Q was one winner too many, if instead Declarer had been dealt ♣AK32 then he would have made 13 tricks with ease!

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