

BRIDGE BITES

from The American Contract Bridge League

AN EXTRA CHANCE

By: Brian Gunnell

	♠ AK6 ♥ T3 ♦ J7 ♣ QT9764	
♠ 87 ♥ K542 ♦ KQ943 ♣ 85	North West East Declarer	♠ 542 ♥ AJ9 ♦ 8652 ♣ K32
	♠ QJT93 ♥ Q876 ♦ AT ♣ AJ	

E-W Vulnerable

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

The opening lead is the ♦K, won by Declarer's Ace. A Heart is lost to East, but Declarer's hopes of getting two Heart ruffs on the board are dashed when East returns a trump. So much for Plan A. Setting up the Clubs is Plan B, will it succeed?

At first glance it may appear that the only chance is for East to hold the singleton or doubleton Club King. If that is the case then Declarer can cross to the Spade Ace, lead a Club and finesse (assuming that the King does not appear from East). If the Club King comes down in two rounds, and if trumps are 3-2, then the Clubs will run and there will be no fewer than 12 tricks.

As you can see, the Club King does not come down in two rounds. Does this mean the contract fails? Not if Declarer realizes the potential of the Spade Six! That valuable card is a potential Dummy entry if one opponent or the other has Eight-Seven doubleton of trumps. And just as valuable as the Six is Declarer's precious Three!

When East returns that trump at Trick 3, Declarer plays the *Queen* from hand and overtakes in Dummy. Now the Club finesse works and the Club Ace is cashed. The Spade Jack is overtaken in Dummy, and a Club is ruffed *high*. Now Dummy's Clubs are good and, thanks to West's doubleton Eight-Seven of trumps, the Spade Six is an entry to those Clubs. Well done, Declarer! If she had carelessly played the Three on the first round of trumps she would not have reaped the benefit of her extra chance.

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