

BRIDGE BITES

from The American Contract Bridge League

MR & MRS SMITH

By: Brian Gunnell

	<p>♠ QJ3 ♥ 3 ♦ T4 ♣ AKJT982</p>	
<p>♠ T96 ♥ 987 ♦ Q765 ♣ 543</p>	<p>North Mrs Mr Smith Declarer</p>	<p>♠ 852 ♥ AQT654 ♦ KJ32 ♣</p>
	<p>♠ AK74 ♥ KJ2 ♦ A98 ♣ Q76</p>	

Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Playing bridge is a great activity to enjoy with one's spouse. However, some bridge Clubs have a Mr. and Mrs. Smith in their ranks, and perhaps these couples are temperamentally better suited to chess or backgammon.

At a Club duplicate the entire N-S field was having a bad day and missed the lay-down slam. Instead, they played in 3NT making the obvious 12 tricks, except at the table where a tricky Declarer scored an extra trick from an unlikely source.

Mrs. Smith knew that, after this auction, the lead of a major suit is usually called for. The ♠T was the obvious choice and Declarer won that with Dummy's Queen. Declarer now rattled off Dummy's Clubs, throwing from his hand two Diamonds, the ♥J and the ♥K (cunningly keeping the Heart Two!).

Next, Declarer cashed Spades and the defense lapsed into auto-pilot mode. Declarer seemed to be out of Hearts and so they both felt compelled to hang on to Diamonds. On the last Spade, Mr. Smith, who by now was down to ♥A and ♦KJ, tossed away the ♥A, wondering why Declarer was wasting time playing out the hand. At Trick 12, Declarer cashed the ♦A, and Mr. Smith leaned forward to claim Trick 13 with his ♦K. But Declarer rather took the wind out of Mr. Smith's sails by (somewhat mischievously) announcing "The board's good". And so it was, as the sneaky Heart Two was led to Dummy's Three for the 13th trick.

In the post mortem the Smiths exchanged ideas:

"Why didn't you"
"Did you really think I"
"keep a Heart? No reason"
"pitched Nine-Eight-Seven"
"to keep the"
"and kept the Two?"
"Diamond Queen unless"
"I wish you would"
"you were planning"
"pay attention"
"to win it at Trick 14"

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