

BRIDGE BITES

from The American Contract Bridge League

THE ONLY CARD

By: Brian Gunnell

	♠ KT954 ♥ 2 ♦ QJ653 ♣ 94	
♠ QJ87 ♥ Q6 ♦ KT82 ♣ KQJ	North West East Declarer	♠ 62 ♥ J87 ♦ A974 ♣ T872
	♠ A3 ♥ AKT9543 ♦ ♣ A653	

Both Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♥	Dbl	1♠	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

You are West, looking at the N-W hands, there must be something on your breakfast table to cover the S-E hands. Against 4♥ you lead the ♣K, and that holds the trick, Partner playing the Two. Now, at Trick 2, there is only one card in your hand that will defeat this contract. What is it?

Before you play to Trick 2, let's analyze Trick 1. Partner played the Two, and in standard carding methods that is discouraging. In other words, Partner does not like the suit and it is safe to assume that he does not have the Ace. So Declarer has the Ace, yet she did not win the trick. What is she up to? That's right, she would just love for you to continue with Clubs, allowing her to win the Ace and get a ruff in Dummy.

It goes against the grain to lead away from certain trump holdings, and leading from Qx has potential for blowing a trump trick. Nonetheless, stopping the ruff is paramount, so you bite the bullet and shift to a trump. But which one? Leading a low trump would deprive Declarer of a trick by stopping his Club ruff, but it might return the trick by destroying Partner's trump holding. Time to remove that diagonally placed (pre-syrup) waffle from your morning newspaper, and take a peek at the S-E hands.

Yes, at Trick 2, the only card in your hand that will beat the contract is the ♥Q! Not only does it deprive Declarer of his ruff in Dummy, but it also preserves Partner's natural trump trick. In the fullness of time the defense will score three Clubs and a Heart, and that is down one.

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