

# BRIDGE BITES

from The American Contract Bridge League

## EAST TO THE RESCUE

By: Brian Gunnell

	♠ 54 ♥ A7 ♦ 43 ♣ AJT8765	
♠ K863 ♥ QT52 ♦ Q862 ♣ 4	<i>North</i>  <i>West</i> <i>East</i>  <i>Declarer</i>	♠ QT9 ♥ K943 ♦ JT9 ♣ Q32
	♠ AJ72 ♥ J86 ♦ AK75 ♣ K9	

### ***N-S Vulnerable***

<i>South</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>
1NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

North saw no good reason to show his Clubs and went straight to 3NT, giving West the minimum amount of information for his opening lead. But West guessed well, leading her fourth-highest Heart, not only attacking the defense's best suit, but also knocking out Dummy's entry to the Clubs.

The opening low Heart lead was ducked, in the hope that West had led from the King-Queen. But East took his King and continued the suit, after which Declarer had to bring home the Clubs if he was to make his contract. The obvious play was to cash the ♣K, and lead towards Dummy, either playing for the drop, or finessing against the Queen. Playing for the drop is the slight favorite, but that became a moot point when West showed out on the second round of Clubs. Now things were hopeless, and Declarer could score no more than six tricks.

North had obviously forgotten that Dummy's main role in life is to be supportive and soothing when Declarer fails in his contract. Instead, he conducted an unhelpful post mortem. "You knew, from the opening lead of the Heart Two, that the suit was 4-4, so you could afford a safety play in Clubs, protecting against East holding Qxx. Just run the Club Nine on the first round of the suit. East wins the Queen, but the defense has only four tricks. When you get in again you overtake your ♣K with the Ace and run the suit. Nine easy tricks!"

But North had been guilty of faulty analysis as well as poor behavior, and it was East who came to the rescue of Declarer. "That line won't work", she explained, "I simply duck the first round of Clubs!" Yes, indeed, that would be a fine play.

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