

BRIDGE BITES

from The American Contract Bridge League

MANAGING THE ENTRIES

By: Brian Gunnell

This week's hand comes from a duplicate bridge event, where the method of scoring generously rewards making overtricks.

	♠ AKT9 ♥ Q ♦ 987 ♣ T9764	
♠ Q832 ♥ AT75 ♦ T43 ♣ KQ	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ J7654 ♥ 832 ♦ KJ52 ♣ J
	♠ ♥ KJ964 ♦ AQ6 ♣ A8532	

E-W Vulnerable

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Can you make 10 tricks after a low Diamond lead? Our title is one clue, and we'll also say that West is a slippery cove, and that the play in Clubs is crucial. Alright, that's enough clues, now please make 10 tricks.

Our Declarer managed only 9 tricks. He won the Diamond lead, cashed the ♣A and conceded a Club, playing low from the board both times. West won the second Club and persevered with Diamonds. Declarer correctly ducked and took the next Diamond, hoping that the defender with the ♥A was not the one with the 13th Diamond. Then Declarer led to the ♥Q but that rascally West ducked the trick! This fine play meant that Declarer could not score a second Heart trick ... with ♣T97 on the board and ♠853 in hand there was only one entry back to hand when two were needed (one to knock out the ♥A, the other to get back to the Heart winner). Making only 9 tricks.

West made a good play by ducking the Heart but Declarer did not have to give him a chance to shine. On the first two rounds of Clubs, Declarer should play Dummy's ♠9 and ♠T. Now, with ♣764 on the board and ♠853 in hand, there are two entries to hand, and also one back to the board later, with which to reach the ♠AK. Careful management of the entries nullifies West's clever duck and brings in that valuable overtrick.

Visit www.acbl.org for more about the fascinating game of bridge or email marketing@acbl.org