

# BRIDGE BITES

from The American Contract Bridge League

## A JOY TO BEHOLD

By: Brian Gunnell

	♠ KT4 ♥ QJ4 ♦ 8432 ♣ 975	
♠ J87 ♥ T3 ♦ KQT6 ♣ QT82	North West      East Declarer	♠ Q965 ♥ 9765 ♦ 75 ♣ KJ3
	♠ A32 ♥ AK82 ♦ AJ9 ♣ A64	

### **N-S Vulnerable**

South	West	North	East
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

This deal was played in a team-of-four game. At both tables South opened 2NT, showing a balanced hand and 20-21 HCP, and North raised to game. West's opening lead was the ♦K. Do you see how to make 9 tricks?

**Clue:** There is some trickery involved!

At the first table, Declarer counted eight top tricks and the only prospect for a ninth was to score a second Diamond. One possibility was to let the ♦K win the first trick, in the hope that West would be lured into continuing Diamonds, allowing Declarer's Jack to score (the so-called Bath Coup). But that was unlikely to work, as West (who had not been born the day before) would surely shift at Trick 2, presumably to a Club. Another chance for the ninth trick was to establish a second Diamond winner by force, eventually setting up Dummy's Eight. So, Declarer took the ♦A on the first trick and returned the ♦J, won by West's Queen. However, that line of play was also doomed to failure when West promptly shifted to a Club and the defense got their five tricks before Declarer could rustle up his nine tricks. Down one.

At the other table, West also led the ♦K, but this time Declarer found a rather surprising play. She smoothly dropped the Jack! Playing Declarer to have started with doubleton AJ, West confidently led a low Diamond to East's presumed Nine. It was a joy to behold the look of astonishment on West's face when it was Declarer who produced the Nine and claimed her nine tricks.

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