

# BRIDGE BITES

from The American Contract Bridge League

## DIFFERENT CONTRACT, SAME PLAY

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	♠ KQT54 ♥ KQ63 ♦ 987 ♣ 8	
♠ 9876 ♥ J8 ♦ 52 ♣ QT765	North West East South	♠ A ♥ T9752 ♦ A643 ♣ KJ2
	♠ J32 ♥ A4 ♦ KQJT ♣ A943	

### Both Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	2♠	1♥	Dbl
Pass	2♠	Pass	??

After this beginning the contract might reasonably be 3NT (played by South) or 4♠ (by North). Let's dispose of the 3NT contract first, because this one our readers will make in their sleep. West leads a Club, Declarer holds up until the third round (in case the Clubs are 5-3), and makes her contract when

both enemy Aces are with the short Clubs. Nine nervous tricks!

Now watch *North* declare 4♠ and see where he goes wrong. East (aggressively) leads a Club, and Dummy's Ace wins the trick. Then a Spade is conceded to East's Ace and the Club continuation is ruffed by Declarer. Next, trumps are played but Declarer comes unstuck when the suit is 4-1. East will get in with the ♦A and persist with Clubs, at which point Declarer will have lost trump control. Down one!

North should have taken a leaf out of the No Trump playbook. That hold-up play in Clubs, which is almost routine when playing No Trump, can also work in a suit contract. North can win the opening Club lead with Dummy's Ace but, when East gets in with the ♠A and continues Clubs, the correct play is to refrain from ruffing immediately. When a third round of Clubs is played, North must ruff, but West never gets in again to do damage with his Club winners. What's good for No Trump is also sometimes good for suit play!

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