

## ACBL - BRIDGE HAND OF THE WEEK

Bad luck - or something else? - Jun 13 2011

On this deal, declarer could have done better, as dummy pointed out in the postmortem. Take a look and see how you would fare.

|                           |                                        |                          |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dealer South<br>Vul :Both | NORTH<br>♠643<br>♥9754<br>♦K5<br>♣AQ84 |                          |
| WEST<br>♠<br>♥<br>♦<br>♣  |                                        | EAST<br>♠<br>♥<br>♦<br>♣ |
|                           | SOUTH<br>♠AKQ<br>♥AQ3<br>♦AQ952<br>♣KJ |                          |

| North     | East     | South  | West |
|-----------|----------|--------|------|
| --        | --       | 2 Club | Pass |
| 2 Diamonf | Pass     | 2 NT   | Pass |
| 6 NT      | All Pass |        |      |
|           |          |        |      |

Plan the play after West leads the ♠J.

**Solution in next page**

In the actual event, South won the opening spade lead, unblocked the ♠K and ♠J, then played the ♦A and a diamond to dummy's king. On the third round of clubs, West showed out. On the dummy's club winners, declarer discarded the ♥3 and ♥Q.

All declarer needed at that point was for West to hold one of the two remaining diamonds, meaning the suit would be 3-3 or declarer could safely conceded a diamond to West.

Declarer returned to hand with a spade and cashed the ♦Q. Disaster struck when West discarded on that trick. The contract could no longer be made because when declarer conceded a diamond to set up a fourth winner in the suit, East had a long club to cash for down one.

Dummy, as usual, had a solution. "After cashing the ♠K and ♠J, you should have played a low diamond from both hands before you have to set up a club winner for East. When you regained the lead, you would cross to the ♦K and cash the top clubs. As long as the diamonds were no worse than 4-2, your hand would be high and the slam would be made."

The full deal:

|              |             |              |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|
|              | ♠ 6 4 3     |              |
|              | ♥ 9 7 5 4   |              |
|              | ♦ K 5       |              |
|              | ♣ A Q 8 4   |              |
| ♠ J 10 9 8 2 |             | ♠ 7 5        |
| ♥ K J 6 2    |             | ♥ 10 8       |
| ♦ 7 4        |             | ♦ J 10 8 6   |
| ♣ 6 3        |             | ♣ 10 9 7 5 2 |
|              | ♠ A K Q     |              |
|              | ♥ A Q 3     |              |
|              | ♦ A Q 9 3 2 |              |
|              | ♣ K J       |              |