

ACBL – BRIDGE HAND OF THE WEEK

Evenly by Tim Bourke - Sep 19 201

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| Dealer South Vul :E-W | NORTH ♠ J 7 3 ♥ A 4 2 ♦ 7 5 3 2 ♣ 5 4 3 | |
| WEST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ | | EAST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣ |
| | SOUTH ♠ A K Q 9 8 5 ♥ 8 ♦ A K 8 6 ♣ A Q | |

| South | West | North | East |
|---------|------|-----------|----------|
| 2 Club | Pass | 2 Diamond | Pass |
| 2 Spade | Pass | 3 Spade | Pass |
| 4 Club | Pass | 4 Heart | Pass |
| 4 NT | Pass | 5 Diamond | Pass |
| 5 NT | Pass | 6 Spade | All Pass |

A standard Roman Key Card Blackwood auction lands you in what turns out to be a poor small slam. How do you plan to make 12 tricks after West leads the ♥Q?

Solution in next page.

You could win the ♥A and test the trumps. If they are not 2-2, you would play three rounds of trumps ending in dummy and take the club finesse. If that succeeded, then all you would need for a 12th trick would be for diamonds to be 3-2.

However, there is an extra chance when trumps are 2-2:

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

After winning the first trick with the ♥A, you ruff a heart. Then, after drawing two rounds of trumps with the ace and jack, you do find that trumps are 2-2 and you ruff dummy's last heart. As the heart suit is eliminated, you play the ♦A, ♦K and another diamond. When West holds three diamonds, he has to win the trick and must lead a club into your ace-queen or play a heart. The latter allows you to ruff in dummy while discarding the ♣Q from hand. Either way, you have 12 tricks.

If East had won the third round of diamonds, he would have to play a club to avoid giving you a ruff-sluff. The fate of the contract, therefore, would depend on which defender began with the ♣K.