

A C B L – BRIDGE HAND OF THE WEEK

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On thin ice - Aug 30 2010

This deal was played in Australia and reported by Ron Klinger in the Sydney Morning Herald. See you can do as well as Jeff Fust, who brought home a doubled contract.

Dir: East Vul: N-S	NORTH ♠ 10 6 3 ♥ 8 7 5 4 2 ♦ A 6 4 ♣ 7	
WEST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣		EAST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣
	SOUTH ♠ K J 9 8 4 2 ♥ — ♦ K 2 ♣ K J 9 6 4	

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
Pass	1 Spade	2 Club	2 Spade
3 Heart	4 Spade	X	All Pass

West led the ♥A, which you ruff. How to you proceed from there?

Solution

Here's how Fust took advantage of a subtle error by the defense to land his doubled contract.

After ruffing the heart, declarer played a diamond to dummy's ace to play a club up. East rose with the ♣A and switched to the ♠7. Declarer ducked to West's ace. West was now at the crossroads. The only return to defeat the contract at that point was a diamond (you will soon see why). On the spade return, declarer won in hand and ruffed a club low.

He ruffed a heart to hand and cashed another spade, leaving this position:

♠ —	♠ —
♥ —	♥ 10 8 7
♦ Q 10	♦ 6 4
♣ Q 10 8	♣ —
	♠ 9
	♥ —
	♦ K
	♣ K J 9
	♠ —
	♥ K J 9
	♦ J 8
	♣ —

When declarer cashed the ♠9, West was done. If he threw a club, South would play the ♣K and another club, waiting with the good ♣J and ♦K at the end. When West discarded a diamond, South cashed the ♦K and played the ♠9 from hand, endplaying West at trick 12.

Had West returned a diamond when in with the ♠A, declarer would not have had that late entry to hand – and with East retaining the ♠Q, declarer would not have been able to ruff more than one club in dummy. He would have lost two clubs and two trump tricks for one down. The full deal:

	NORTH ♠ 10 6 3 ♥ 10 8 7 5 4 2 ♦ A 6 4 ♣ 7	
WEST ♠ A 5 ♥ A Q ♦ Q 10 9 8 ♣ Q 10 8 5 3		EAST ♠ Q 7 ♥ K J 9 6 3 ♦ J 8 7 5 ♣ A 2
	SOUTH ♠ K J 9 8 4 2 ♥ — ♦ K 2 ♣ K J 9 6 4	