

A Double Order of Duck

by [Brian Gunnell](#)

Board 13
North Deals
Both Vul

	♠ K 7 4					
	♥ A 9 8 7					
	♦ A 9 7 4 3					
	♣ Q					
♠ Q J 10 3	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ 9 8 6 5	
N						
W E						
S						
♥ 4		♥ 5 3				
♦ J 10 6		♦ Q 8				
♣ 10 8 6 5 2		♣ A 9 7 4 3				
	♠ A 2					
	♥ K Q J 10 6 2					
	♦ K 5 2					
	♣ K J					
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>			
	1 ♦	Pass	1 ♥			
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	4 NT			
Pass	5 ♥	Pass	6 ♥			
All pass						

West leads the ♠Q and, when dummy goes down, declarer can see that his 6♥ contract is quite hopeless. The ♣A must be lost and there is no way to avoid a diamond loser. Declarer will win the opening spade, draw trumps and then cash the ♦K and ♦A before conceding the third round of diamonds. When West wins the ♦J, he will quickly shift to a club, and East's ♣A scores the setting trick before declarer's clubs disappear on the long diamonds. Down one.

But that's not what happened. It's true, looking at all four hands, that 6♥ *should* go down, but West was looking at only two hands. Taking advantage of that, declarer came up with a truly brilliant deception. He ducked the opening lead in both hands! The defense can now cash the ♣A to beat the contract, but it never occurred to West that his partner might have the ♣A and not the ♠A. So, naturally enough, West persisted with spades. Imagine West's surprise when declarer's ♠A won the second spade trick. Next, trumps were drawn, a diamond was pitched on the ♠K, the ♦K was cashed, then the ♦A, and a diamond was ruffed. Now there were two good diamonds in dummy, on which declarer was able to pitch his losing clubs. Making twelve tricks.

A most unusual hand. Declarer started out with an inescapable loser in diamonds and another in clubs. But, thanks to that lovely first round double duck, he ended up losing a spade but nothing else.