


Duck a la Glynda

Don't be fooled by that title, what follows is not a recipe, it is a bridge column.

<p>Board 23 South Deals Both Vul</p>	<p>♠ 10 6 2 ♥ 7 5 ♦ 10 7 ♣ A J 10 6 3 2</p>	<p>♠ 9 7 ♥ A 9 4 3 ♦ J 8 5 2 ♣ Q 9 8</p>	<p>♠ Q J 8 3 ♥ 10 8 6 2 ♦ Q 6 3 ♣ K 4</p>
			
	<p>♠ A K 5 4 ♥ K Q J ♦ A K 9 4 ♣ 7 5</p>		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	3 NT	All pass	2 NT
3 NT by South Lead: ♥ 3			

This was played at a local club duplicate. At every table the contract was 3NT played by South. And at almost every table the play went much the same way. West led a low heart, won by declarer. It was clear to declarer that he would not have enough tricks unless dummy's clubs could be established, so at trick two he finessed the ♣J, losing to East's king. The defense continued hearts and when declarer got back in he took a deep breath and tried a second club finesse. When that worked declarer had no fewer than eleven tricks.

But, at one table, East (we'll refer to her as Glynda because that happened to be her name) found a rather fine play. When declarer finessed the clubs at trick two she brazenly ducked her doubleton king! Well done, now the club suit was dead as poultry (due to dummy's shortage of entries), and was worth only two tricks instead of five. Declarer's last resort was to play on spades, hoping that the suit was 3-3, but that did not work so there were just eight tricks, with no chance of a ninth. Down one! As husband West was gleefully writing +100 on his scorecard, he explained to Glynda "If I don't hold on to my clubs when the spades are played, declarer makes his contract." "Quite so, my dear, nicely defended," replied Glynda.