

One Winner Too Many

South might have opened the bidding with an artificial game-forcing two clubs, but one way or the other it seems that North-South should get to slam on these cards. In fact seven hearts is a fine contract, though a hard one to reach. Sadly, our declarer even managed to go down in six hearts, which took a lot of doing!

Against six hearts, West led the ♣J, dummy went down and South rued the missed grand slam. Even so, this being a duplicate bridge event, making the overtrick was important. With that in mind, he counted four side-suit tricks, and could make the rest with ruffs back and forth. In fact, with 10 trumps between the two hands

he even had one trump more than was needed to score thirteen tricks. So, he cashed the ♥A, followed by his two remaining club winners. Tragically for declarer, East ruffed the third round of clubs and fired back a trump. Suddenly, declarer's thirteen tricks had been compressed into eleven and he was down one!

Declarer's drawing of a round of trumps served no useful purpose whatsoever, the missing trumps being miniscule and offering no overruffing threat. Also, cashing that third club was a needless risk, declarer could count up to 13 with just three side-suit tricks and ten trumps. Making the overtrick was simple enough: win the ♣A, cash the ♣K (pitching a spade), cash the ♠A, and merrily cross-ruff the rest of the hand for all the tricks. That ♣Q was one winner too many, if instead declarer had been dealt ♣AK32 then he would have made thirteen tricks with ease!

Board 23
South Deals
Both Vul

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

♠	K 7 5 3
♥	5 4 3
♦	A Q 9 5
♣	7 6

♠ A 8 6			
♥ K Q 10 7 6 2			
♦ —			
♣ A K Q 3			

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	1 ♥
All pass			6 ♥

6 ♥ by South
Lead: ♣ J