

Double-Switch by Roger Lord

Dealer: South
Vul: North-South

		North	
		♠ 872	
		♥ 86	
		♦ A86	
		♣ KQ753	
	West		East
	♠ Q65		♠ KJ4
	♥ J1072		♥ 954
	♦ K93		♦ 10752
	♣ 1064		♣ AJ8
		South	
		♠ A1093	
		♥ AKQ3	
		♦ QJ4	
		♣ 92	
South	West	North	East
1 Notrump	Pass	3 Notrump	All Pass

Contract: 3 Notrump **Opening Lead:** Heart Deuce

In the Swiss teams event of the October sectional, St. Louis Bridge Center mogul Bill Canfield was declarer (South) after a straight-forward auction. Receiving the lead of the heart deuce, he took East's nine with the king and counted his potential winners. They came to one spade, three hearts, two diamonds and one or more clubs.

The club suit seemed to offer the best chances for an additional two tricks, so Bill attacked with the club nine--and let it ride! This lost to East's jack, but the effect of the ducking ploy was to let declarer lead the next club from his hand to dummy's queen and establish the suit while the diamond ace remained for an entry. (Analyze the situation if, instead, declarer leads his first club to dummy's queen—then, if East makes a good duck, dummy will have insufficient entries to set up and run the suit.)

At trick three, East switched to a diamond in the hope of prematurely driving out the ace, the entry card. South followed with the jack and West with the king, but Bill alertly allowed the king to hold, putting North's ace on standby. Another diamond play harmlessly rode to the queen. At this point, good use was made of the club deuce and, once East's ace was knocked out, the rest of dummy's suit. Bill had won the match by the margin of this game hand.

It should be noted that the defender on the left could have set the contract. When West's king won the diamond switch, she could have imagined that a diamond continuation would have led to nine tricks for declarer. However, a desperate switch of her own (a double-switch—call it a "LaRussa") to a spade would have found East with the king-jack to combine with West's queen, bringing a new defensive total to two clubs, one diamond and two spades before declarer can get to his nine tricks.