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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

17th Nov 2010 Both vulnerable. North deals.

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

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1 Heart	Pass
3 Diamond	Pass	4 Heart	X
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: Ace of ♣

Most members of the club knew better than to double Trump Coup Tommy when holding a trump stack. Our readers are aware that Tommy is an average player who turns into a master technician on hands where trumps break badly. But no one could blame West for doubling four hearts on his holding.

Tommy and partner were employing a jump shift as promising support for partner's suit, although North was a trump short for this action. With a good hand and a diamond fit Tommy wasted no time in getting to the wrong game (six diamonds was cold as the cards lie), and West's double could be heard three blocks away over the city traffic.

West's first shock came when Tommy ruffed the second club. The queen of diamonds was run at trick two, followed by the jack, establishing the diamonds. Next the ace of spades was cleared and a club was ruffed and overruffed. West could do no better than exit with a spade. Declarer scored the king and queen and then ruffed a spade in dummy.

With only four cards left, declarer had lost two tricks and was down to A K 4 of trumps and a diamond in hand, while the J 7 of trumps and two diamonds were on the table, with West down to nothing but trumps. All that remained was for Tommy to lead a diamond. West could ruff, but then had to lead a trump away from the queen into Tommy's combined tenace. West was left to ruminate that, without a double, Tommy might have cashed a second high trump somewhere along the line and gone down to defeat!

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