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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

30<sup>th</sup> Nov 2010 Both vulnerable. West deals.

	<b>NORTH</b> ♠K Q 9 5 3 ♥K 5 2 ♦A 7 6 ♣A J	
<b>WEST</b> ♠Void ♥A J 8 7 4 ♦K 4 3 ♣K Q 10 9 6		<b>EAST</b> ♠6 4 ♥10 9 ♦J10 9 5 2 ♣7 4 3 2
	<b>SOUTH</b> ♠A J 10 8 7 2 ♥Q 6 3 ♦Q 8 ♣8 5	

North	East	South	West
--	--	--	1 Heart
X	Pass	2 Spade	3 Club
4 Spade	All Pass		

Opening lead: King of ♣

"How early in a hand can a defender be endplayed?" queries a reader. We have seen the opening leader trapped on the very first play, but that is rare. On this deal the endplay occurred at trick four.

North's hand was too good for either a one-no-trump or any spade overcall. South showed a better than minimum hand and North had ample values for a jump to game.

West led the king of clubs, won with the ace. Declarer drew both outstanding trumps and then exited with the jack of clubs. West was forced to win this and did not enjoy having the lead. A club would give declarer a ruff-sluff, so West had to open a red suit — to his detriment. A heart would allow declarer to run it to his queen and limit his heart losers to one, so West tried a low diamond in the hope that his partner held the queen — to no avail. Declarer won with the queen in his hand, cashed the ace and then surrendered two heart tricks — four spades bid and made in comfort.

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