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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

4th Jan 2011 Neither vulnerable. East deals.

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

North	East	South	West
---	Pass	1 Diamond	1 Heart
X	Pass	2 Club	Pass
2 Heart	X	Pass	Pass
3 Club	Pass	3 Diamond	Pass
5 Club	All Pass		

Opening lead: King of ♥

This deal is from a World Team Olympiad match. The auction was fairly routine and the final contract hinged on declarer losing only one trump trick. Can you match his feat, looking at all the hands?

West led a top heart then shifted to the ten of spades. Declarer won in dummy with the king and then decided to test the distribution by playing the jack, king and ace of diamonds. Reluctant to weaken his trump holding, West chose to discard a heart.

Since West did not double originally, he was unlikely to hold more than three spades. Declarer therefore opted to play West for 3-5-2-3 distribution and, probably, the king of clubs. Declarer discarded a spade from dummy, crossed to the king of spades and led the three of clubs, covered by the seven and eight and losing to the jack. Declarer ruffed the heart continuation and led the queen the clubs. When this was covered by the king and ace and felled the Ten, declarer could claim a well-reasoned success.

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