

ACBL - BRIDGE HAND OF THE WEEK

A different kind of trump coup - Jan 24 2011

This deal was played at the 2004 Fall NABC in Orlando. Ruth Froeberg of Sunnyvale CA came through despite a difficult situation in trumps. See if you could do as well.

Dealer Vul :	NORTH ♠K ♥AKJ3 ♦K974 ♣9754	
WEST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣		EAST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣
	SOUTH ♠J986542 ♥Q5 ♦A10 ♣AQ	

North	East	South	West
1 Heart	Pass	1 Spade	Pass
2 Diamond	Pass	3 Spade	Pass
4 Spade	All Pass		

West leads the ♣J, which rides to your queen. When you lead a spade, West hops up with the ace, East showing out. West exits with the ♣10 to your ace. Now what?

Solution

Froeberg forged a plan to neutralize West's trump holding and put it into play. She cashed the ♥Q, went to dummy with the ♥K and ruffed the ♥A! Then she cashed the ♦A and ♦K and ruffed a diamond, reducing herself and West to all trumps. She led the ♠9, and there was nothing West could do. If he won, the trump return would go to the 8 or 5, and a middle trump would allow West to win only his queen. If West refused the 9, he could win the next two trump tricks, but then would have to give declarer the last and game-going trick. The full deal:

	NORTH ♠K ♥AKJ3 ♦K974 ♣9754	
WEST ♠AQ1073 ♥987 ♦852 ♣J10		EAST ♠— ♥10642 ♦QJ63 ♣K8632
	SOUTH ♠J986542 ♥Q5 ♦A10 ♣AQ	