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Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch

10th May 2011

Dealer : South Vul : N-S	NORTH ♠ K Q 8 5 ♥ 9 6 ♦ 10 6 5 4 ♣ Q 6 2	
WEST ♠ J 6 4 3 ♥ 10 3 2 ♦ 8 7 ♣ 9 8 7 4		EAST ♠ 10 9 7 ♥ A K Q 4 ♦ A 9 ♣ J 10 5 3
	SOUTH ♠ A 2 ♥ J 8 7 5 ♦ K Q J 3 2 ♣ A K	

South	West	North	East
1 Diamond	Pass	1 Spade	X
XX	2 Club	3 Diamond	Pass
3 NT	All Pass		

Opening lead: Two of ♥

Watching all the unrest in the Middle East reminded us that, except perhaps for South Africa, Egypt has the strongest bridge team on the continent, spearheaded by Tarek Sadek and Walid Elahmady. They sat East-West on this deal a few years back against a powerful U.S.-Italy squad.

West's two clubs was an attempt to find a 4-4 fit in either clubs or spades. North-South brushed this petty annoyance aside and reached the normal contract of three no trump, against which Elahmady led the two of hearts (third- or fifth-best). Sadek won with the king and returned a low heart. Declarer looked at this suspiciously, but eventually decided to treat it as an honest card and placed West with Q x x of hearts and, therefore, followed low. West's ten won and the defense started off with four heart tricks, with the ace of diamonds still to come. Down one.

gorenbridge@aol.com