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Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch

11<sup>th</sup> May 2011

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Dealer : South<br>Vul : E-W                        | NORTH<br>♠ J 9 8 2<br>♥ K 5<br>♦ J 10 4<br>♣ A J 9 3 |  |
| WEST<br>♠ K 7 6 4<br>♥ 8 3<br>♦ K Q 6 5 2<br>♣ 8 4 |  | EAST<br>♠ A 3<br>♥ Q J 10 9 6 2<br>♦ 7 3<br>♣ 10 6 2 |
|  | SOUTH<br>♠ Q 10 5<br>♥ A 7 4<br>♦ A 9 8<br>♣ K Q 7 5 |  |

| South  | West | North     | East     |
|--------|------|-----------|----------|
| 1 Club | Pass | 1 Diamond | 1 Heart  |
| Pass   | Pass | X         | Pass     |
| 1 NT   | Pass | 3 NT      | All Pass |

Opening lead: Eight of ♥

Here's another example of the defensive capabilities of Egypt's top pair, Walid Elahmady and Tarek Sadek. After a strong club opening and a positive one-diamond response, North-South reached three no trump and Elahmady led the top of his doubleton in partner's suit.

Declarer ducked in dummy, Sadek overtook with the nine and declarer let it hold. Sadek now made the key shift to a diamond! Declarer had no play. If he rose with the ace, the defenders would take four diamond tricks and the heart already in the bank, so he ducked.

West won with the queen of diamonds and reverted to a heart, taken in dummy with the king. Declarer tried the nine of spades from dummy, but the defense was relentless. East rose with the ace and reverted to diamonds, and declarer could take no more than four clubs, two hearts and a diamond before the defenders collected their six tricks for two down and a top board.

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