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Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch

15th September 2011

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

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

Opening lead: King of ♥

Be wary of hands that seem to be laydown. A bad break in a suit can wreck an excellent contract.

Note East's pre-empt on little point count with long trumps and good distribution. The Law of Total Tricks suggests that a four-heart pre-empt might be right, not that it would have affected the final contract. Since four diamonds by South might have sounded like a merely competitive action, South selected the slightly aggressive jump to five diamonds.

West led the king of hearts and continued with the ace, declarer ruffing. Trumps were drawn in two rounds, followed by the ace and king of spades and a spade ruff. With the major suits eliminate from dummy and the closed hand, there was now no distribution which could defeat the contract. A 3-2 club division would make declarer's life easy, but even a 4-1 or 5-0 split could be handled. Declarer simply led a low club from hand.

As the cards lie, West must cover with the nine and all declarer has to do is to allow the defender to win the first club trick. West must either give declarer a ruff-sluff or return a club. A low club will not do and, if West returns an honor, declarer simply ducks in dummy. When East shows out, declarer wins in hand and takes the marked club finesse for the remaining club honor.

Note that the same endplay occurs if East has the club length or if either defender has a singleton honor.

Read more: http://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/article_bfa02f22-51ba-578e-81d6-4a37cdc564d3.html#ixzz1Y0BXdsaN

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