

Thanks to STL.com and Goren bridge

Read original >

http://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/article_444c12e1-2bd9-58ad-9b3a-dd50cb55e844.html

Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch

17th May 2011

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

South	West	North	East
--	--	Pass	1 Heart
4 Spade	X	All Pass	

Opening lead: Two of ♥

The late Terence Reese, arguably the greatest player/writer in the history of the game, once watched helplessly as his partner, declaring four spades, frittered away trick after trick and, instead of making 11 tricks, ended up with just eight.

"Could I have done better?" his partner inquired. "Well," retorted Reese, "double dummy you could have gone down three!" North must have had similar feelings as he watched South butcher this deal.

South's jump overcall of four spades was impeccable. West's double was a trifle feisty, but might have paid a handsome dividend had the South hand been a little different.

West led the deuce of hearts and East made the technically correct play of the nine. (Since West was certainly not underleading the ace on this auction, the play of the nine was made to reveal the location of the queen – that might have been important later in the play.) Declarer won with the queen and, anxious to ruff a couple of heart losers, attempted to cash the ace. West ruffed and returned a trump and there was no way declarer could avoid losing two diamond tricks and another heart – down one.

This type of situation crops up more often than one might think, and there is a simple maneuver to guarantee the contract. At trick two declarer must lead a low heart, and the defenders are helpless. Declarer can then ruff a heart, draw trumps and concede two diamonds, making exactly 10 tricks.