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Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch

17<sup>th</sup> Nov 2011

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

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

Opening lead: Ace of ♥

West's sound opening bid did not prevent North-South from reaching a reasonable spade game. Can it be made?

After winning the first trick with the ace of hearts, West continued with the king, hoping to shorten dummy's trumps fatally. Declarer ruffed in dummy, East overruffed and returned a low club. Declarer won, drew trumps, cashed the ace-king of diamonds, making the key play of discarding a heart, and continuing with the knave, ruffing out East's queen. He now started cashing trumps, squeezing the defenders down to this position:

	<b>NORTH</b> ♠ -- ♥ -- ♦ 10 6 ♣ J 10	
<b>WEST</b> ♠ -- ♥ J 8 ♦ -- ♣ K 7		<b>EAST</b> ♠ -- ♥ -- ♦ 9 ♣ Q 9 8
	<b>SOUTH</b> ♠ 8 ♥ Q 9 ♦ -- ♣ 4	

When the last trump was led, West had to hold his low club to prevent being endplayed, and West could not afford to let go of a heart without giving declarer the fulfilling trick. West therefore sluffed his king of clubs and dummy and East parted with low diamonds. Now declarer exited with his carefully preserved low club. East could win, but then had to put declarer back in dummy, giving him his contract.

Read more: [http://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/bridge-column-for-nov/article\\_0fc878c3-519b-53a2-b174-61400874baae.html#ixzz1dwPxnR20](http://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/bridge-column-for-nov/article_0fc878c3-519b-53a2-b174-61400874baae.html#ixzz1dwPxnR20)

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