

Thanks to STL.com and Goren bridge

Read original 1st September 2011

>http://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/article_35865991-771a-5fb6-9583-44f16e72d845.html

Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch

Dealer: South Vul: None	NORTH ♠ A Q 5 ♥ J 7 5 2 ♦ K Q 10 4 ♣ Q 5	
WEST ♠ 9 8 ♥ Q 10 8 ♦ 9 7 3 2 ♣ J 10 9 4		EAST ♠ J 10 7 4 3 2 ♥ 9 ♦ 8 6 ♣ K 8 7 2
	SOUTH ♠ K 6 ♥ A K 6 4 3 ♦ A J 5 ♣ A 6 3	

South	West	North	East
1 Heart	Pass	2 NT	Pass
6 Heart	All Pass		

Opening lead: Jack of ♣

To make the most of this play problem, cover the East-West hands with your thumbs and decide how you play six hearts after the lead of the jack of clubs.

North's jump to two no trump was a forcing raise in hearts. With such a powerful hand, South's jump to the small slam was

merited. Your first problem comes at trick one. Do you cover with dummy's queen? It is unlikely that West is leading from the king, but it cannot cost to cover. East produces the king, so you win with the ace. What next?

Since you will take all the tricks if the queen of hearts drops, there is no reason not to cash the ace and king of trumps. But so far this is not your day – East discards a spade on the second round of trumps and, since the queen has not appeared, you have to lose a trump trick. To avoid a club loser, you must dispose of two clubs on dummy's spades and diamonds. Which suit should you tackle first?

It seems natural to go after the spades first but, if you do, West will ruff the third spade and you have no way to avoid losing a club trick. Is that sheer bad luck or faulty technique?

Even if the third round of spades is not ruffed, you will still need West, the defender with the winning trump, to follow to three rounds of diamonds if you are to discard your remaining club. Therefore, it is correct to take three rounds of diamonds first. If the suit breaks 3-3, you then take three rounds of spades before leading the 13th diamond, and all is well. Here, however, West shows up with four diamonds, so you can first take one club discard on the long diamond before tackling spades, and the slam rolls home. (

Read more:

http://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/article_35865991-771a-5fb6-9583-44f16e72d845.html#ixzz1WgndggPY

gorenbridge@aol.com