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Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch

20th August 2011

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

South	West	North	East
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4 Spade	All Pass		

Opening lead: King of ♣

"Curious hand," remarked the kibitzer. "Declarer took every finesse in sight and went down a trick but failed to find the one which would virtually guarantee the contract!" This was the hand from a team match that caused the kibitzer's wise observation.

The auction was straightforward. Playing transfer bids, the only difference is that North would declare, but that might not have been a benefit.

West led the king of clubs, taken with the ace. Declarer led a trump and finessed, losing to the king. The defender switched to a heart and finesse number two bit the dust when the queen was captured by East's king. A club was returned to West's queen. Back came a diamond and East's king was the setting trick.

The auction and opening lead were the same at the other table. Here, however, declarer took a different tack. The king of clubs was allowed to hold the first trick, and West shifted to a heart. Declarer spurned the heart finesse, rising with the ace. Next came a spade to the ace and, even though the king did not drop, declarer was in hand to take the one finesse that was virtually bound to succeed – a club to the jack!

That held, and a heart was discarded on the ace of clubs. A heart was ruffed in the closed hand to strip the defenders of their safe exit cards and a trump was led. It made no difference which defender held the king – that player would be forced to return a diamond or concede a ruff-sluff. West won and declarer finessed the nine when West exited with a diamond. That lost to the jack, but East was forced to yield the fulfilling trick no matter what the defender led.

Read more: http://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/article_ca437230-6c56-5d9e-87b3-3d0b309c9df3.html#ixzz1VYj7Osb

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