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Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch

21st Jan 2012

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

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

Opening lead: King of ♥

Winston Churchill was a bridge player. His famous comment on the Battle of Britain, "Let them do their worst, and we shall do our best!" could apply as easily to the duel across the green baize as to that campaign.

The auction was straightforward. South chose to rebid two hearts on a not too robust suit rather than raise diamonds because the latter sounds like a stronger action. North's raise to game was obvious.

West started with three rounds of spades, declarer ruffing the last. If the red suits broke reasonably the contract was simple, so South adopted a line that would give him a chance if they broke badly.

Declarer led the ten of diamonds to the queen and returned to hand with a low heart to the queen. Next came the nine of diamonds to the king. Rather than relinquish trump control, East chose to discard a club, but now declarer's foresight in unblocking the high diamonds from hand came into play.

A heart to the king was the entry for declarer to lead his remaining diamond, finessing the eight in dummy. It made no difference whether East elected to ruff or not. Since declarer would simply continue running diamonds from dummy if East discarded again, the defender chose to trump and shift to a club. Declarer rose with the ace and crossed to the ace of trumps on the table, in the process drawing the outstanding trump, then discarded two clubs from hand on dummy's diamonds. Declarer lost only two spade tricks and a trump.

Read more: http://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/bridge-column-for-jan/article_dc76efdd-4b6c-5daa-93f2-b398bddeff4d.html#ixzz1k4oUCzJC

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