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Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch

29<sup>th</sup> September 2011

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

South	West	North	East
2 Club	4 Club	Pass	Pass
6 Spade	All Pass		

Opening lead: King of ♥

This deal is based upon a slam that was bid and made at the table.

Looking at all the cards, can you do as well as the player who could see only his and the dummy?

There is no scientific way to bid the South hand after West's pre-empt. Since as little as the jack of diamonds and three or four spades would make the slam laydown, South simply bid it when the auction left little other option.

West led the king of hearts. Since there is no point to holding up, you win the ace. All would be well if spades were 3-3 and diamonds 3-3, but when you cash the ace and king of spades, West discards a club on the second round. Do you throw in the towel?

Not yet. There is still the chance diamonds are 3-3 and West started with only seven clubs – possible at this vulnerability. Can you see how to take advantage of that?

Cash the three top diamonds and the ace-king of clubs, then exit with a heart. West wins but, down to nothing but clubs, must exit in that suit. Ruff with the six in dummy and East is a goner. If the defender overruffs, you overruff, draw the remaining trump and score the rest of the tricks. If East discards, you underruff with the three and now are in dummy. Lead the jack of hearts and, since East must follow suit, you get to discard the deuce of diamonds. Down to J 9 of spades while you hold Q 10, the lead of a heart from the table allows you to trump coup East out of a spade trick. You lose only one heart trick and, amazingly, dummy took two tricks

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