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Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch

3rd December 2011

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

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

Opening lead: King of ♣

When adversity strikes, going into a depressed state is not the best way to cope with any problem, including those that crop up at the bridge table. Devote your efforts to fighting back.

After receiving a spade raise, South's hand is surely worth a game try. Since there is a possibility that South could hold four or even five hearts and only three spades, we prefer three hearts to the help-suit try of three diamonds. North judged that four-card spade support, a doubleton heart and the ace of clubs merited going to game.

With a 2-2 spade split, 10 tricks are cold. Declarer won the first trick with the ace and made the key play of ruffing a club. When the ace and king of trumps did not fetch the queen, declarer was now able to fall back on an alternative approach.

The ace and king of hearts were played off and a third heart was led. If West ruffed, declarer would discard a diamond from dummy and concede only two diamond tricks and a trump. When West discarded a club, declarer ruffed, trumped another club in hand and the remaining heart was led. Again, West could not ruff profitably so the last trump in dummy was put to good use. A club was ruffed with declarer's remaining trump, and the last three tricks were conceded to high diamonds and the queen of spades.

Note that it does not help West to discard two clubs on the hearts. In that event, dummy's fourth club will set up for a diamond discard from the closed hand.

Read more: http://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/bridge-column-for-dec/article_cd4d0194-943e-55dd-a506-55155e88abe0.html#ixzz1fSIpUDJb

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