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Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch

Tuesday 3rd Jan 2011

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

South	West	North	East
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1 NT	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♥

Before reading on, cover the East-West hands. After three passes, South opens the bidding with one no trump and is raised to game. West leads the jack of hearts, won in the closed hand with the queen. You run the nine of diamonds, losing to West's king, and back comes the queen of spades, ducked all around, followed by the jack.

Do you duck again or rise with the king, and for what reason did you make the choice?

First, see what you need to make your contract, so you cannot afford to lose a fast trick in clubs.

Therefore, to get home you need to find East with the king so that you can take a winning finesse.

East has already shown up with six points in spades and diamonds and you are assigning him with three more in the king of clubs.

Since he did not open the bidding in third seat, there is no way he can hold the ace of spades as well!

That makes your decision easy — duck again and hope that West holds no more than three spades.

In that case, the defenders can take no more than three spades to go with the king of diamonds and you collect three tricks in each of the minors to squeeze home at three no trump.

Read more: http://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/bridge-column-for-jan/article_922f0877-31f5-5073-a051-2ea2d2ce2544.html#ixzz1iT7brYVy

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