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Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch

7th September 2011

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

South	West	North	East
2 NT	Pass	3 Club	Pass
3 Heart	Pass	4 Club	Pass
4 Diamond	Pass	4 Heart	Pass
4 Spade	Pass	5 Heart	All Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♣

Look just at the North-South heart holding in the diagram. What is the correct way to tackle the suit? The answer is that you do not know until you learn how many tricks in the suit you can afford to lose. It is relevant to this deal.

Using a range of 20-22, South had a perfectly normal two no trump opening. After North's Stayman inquiry located a heart fit, the four-club cuebid hinted at slam. After cue-bidding diamonds in return, South should have respected North's sign-off in four hearts. Bidding again with minimum values got the pair to an uncomfortable level.

West's lead of the ten of clubs was won in dummy with the king. How trumps were going to be handled depended on how many side-suit losers there were, so at trick two declarer led a diamond to the queen, which held.

Since there was now only one loser outside the trump suit, declarer could afford to lose a trump trick and there was a safety play available should either defender hold four hearts. Declarer led a trump to the ace and continued with a low trump from the table. When East followed, declarer inserted the nine! West discarded on this trick, so declarer was able to cash the king of hearts, force out the ace of spades and concede a heart trick to make five-odd.

What if East showed out on the second heart? Declarer would rise with the king and lead a trump toward the jack for the same single trump loser.

Read more: http://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/article_d7332798-3258-597b-9ea4-e500b38b617d.html#ixzz1XFVhLXpE

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