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Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch

8th December 2011

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

South	West	North	East
1 Heart	Pass	1 Spade	Pass
2 Club	Pass	2 Diamond	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♦

World Junior Championships is something of a misnomer. With the age limit at Under 23, some of the players have considerable experience at the highest level. Here's the deal that won best-played hand.

With a combined 25 points loaded with intermediates, three no trump was certainly a sound contract. North's fourth-suit forcing bid of two diamonds allowed South to describe his hand as a minimum and the notrump game was reached in quick time.

Declarer ran the opening lead of the three of diamonds to his king and made the good shot of continuing with the knave of hearts. When that won the trick, picking up the ten in the process, he shifted to a club to the king and returned the ten. East covered with the jack and declarer ducked! West parted with a spade. East continued with a diamond, ducked by declarer who won the continuation, discarding a heart from hand. Declarer now cashed the ace of hearts and led a club to the nine.

This was now the position:

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

The ace of clubs now squeezed West so he discarded his diamond queen. A spade was led and West could cash his two winners, but then had to lead away from the queen of hearts into declarer's tenace! A beautiful nine tricks.

Read more: http://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/bridge-column-for-dec/article_83f99559-d51f-5c0b-9f9b-b60f9462a3ba.html#ixzz1fvxtkJSG

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