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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

05/12/2009 Both vulnerable. West deals.

	NORTH A K 6 A 6 5 4 A 10 5 3 8 7	
WEST 2 Q J 9 3 K 8 2 Q J 9 5 2		EAST Q J 10 3 K 10 8 7 Q 9 7 6 4
	SOUTH 9 8 7 5 4 2 J 6 4 A K 10 3	

WEST	NORTH	Pass	SOUTH
Pass	1 NT	EAST	2
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 Spade
All Pass			

Opening lead: Queen of

The originator of the saw "When in doubt, draw trumps" must have been hallucinating. On this deal from a match between France and Poland, declarer gave an object lesson on how to use trumps judiciously.

West led the queen of clubs, taken in the closed hand with the king. Declarer crossed to the ace of hearts and ruffed a heart, returned to dummy with the king of trumps and ruffed another heart. A trump to the king revealed the bad break. Declarer ruffed another heart, clearing that suit. Declarer had scored five trump tricks, a heart and a club and still had two tricks to come from the minor-suit aces.

Declarer cashed the ace of clubs and ruffed a club. Since that would have been declarer's ninth trick with the ace of diamonds still to come, East was compelled to overruff. Now there was no way the defenders could stop South from scoring two diamond tricks while preventing West from gaining the lead to cash some clubs, All declarer had to do was play low should East return a low diamond;

if, instead, East shifts a diamond honor, there is no hurry to win with the ace. By refusing the trick, the combined tenace in the North-South holding assures a second diamond trick when East continues the suit.

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