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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

13th April 2010 North-South vulnerable. West deals.

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

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
-	Pass	1 Club	Pass
1 Heart	1 Spade	X	2 Spade
3 Club	3 Diamond	3 Spade	Pass
3 NT	All Pass		

Opening lead: King of ♦

Getting a look at dummy can make a big difference to your defense. Consider this hand from the Senior Championship at the 2009 World Team Championships.

With Poland sitting East-West against the United States, West chose to lead the king of diamonds and East started an echo to give count. With two spade stoppers in dummy, West saw no reason to switch, and continued with a diamond. With the clubs lying well for the defense, in the fullness of time the defenders collected two tricks in each minor and the ace of spades – down one.

This was the bidding at the other table:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
-	Pass	1 Club	Pass
1 Heart	X	XX	Pass
Pass	1 Spade	2 Club	Pass
3 Club	Pass	3 Heart	Pass
3 Spade	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

East led a low spade, West won with the ace and the diamond shift was not clear – switch the queen of clubs and the queen of spades, for instance, and a spade continuation could be crucial. West decided to go that way. Declarer won with the queen, led a heart to the king and then ran the jack of clubs. East won and set up two long spades but, with no fast entry to the West hand, declarer was able to take nine tricks before the defenders could score their spade tricks.

The United States lost 12 imps on the board without having done anything wrong

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