

Club Championship, Mar 13, 2012 - Trump Coup

Board 1

West Deals

N-S Vul

♠ A 9 8 6 4 3 2 ♥ Q ♦ 9 5 3 ♣ J 2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	♠ J 7 5 ♥ 4 ♦ A K J 10 8 ♣ K 8 7 6	♠ K ♥ 10 7 5 3 2 ♦ Q 7 6 4 2 ♣ 9 3
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West	North	East	South
<i>Aaron</i>	<i>Rishabh</i>	<i>Mark</i>	<i>Pete</i>
1 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♦	Pass
4 ♥	All pass		

4 ♥ by West

Trick	Lead	2nd	3rd	4th
1. N	♠ A	5	K	10
2. N	♠ 9	7	♥ 2	Q
3. S	♦ 7 ¹	♣ 4	9	10
4. E	♥ 4	3	J	Q
5. N	♦ 5	8	2 ²	♥ 6
6. W	♥ A	♠ 2	♣ 6	5

1. Suit preference for spades (♠9 [high] asked for a diamond ruff?)
2. Hoping declarer would not ruff himself down.

Both the bidding and the play could have been different. There would have been no story, had West chosen 4♣ instead of 4♥; or had he inserted the ♥8 or 9 for his trump finesse, or simply played trumps from the top. However, the end position was almost very interesting:

♠ 8 6 4 3 ♥ - ♦ 3 ♣ J 2		
♠ - ♥ K 9 8 ♦ - ♣ A Q 10 5	♠ J ♥ - ♦ A K J ♣ K 8 7	
♠ - ♥ 10 7 ♦ Q 6 4 ♣ 9 3		

The best Aaron could do was to lead to the ♣K and play his winners. This was not effective, as I simply discarded until he had to ruff. The ♥10 stood up as the setting trick.

Exchange the ♣8 and ♣J. Now at trick 7, declarer crosses to dummy with either the ♣K or ♣J and ruffs the ♦J to reduce his trump length to mine. Then he crosses to dummy with a second club to play his winners. At trick 12, the lead will be in dummy with both East and South having only trumps left. Declarer simply covers what South plays, a *trump coup*.

- Pete Matthews