

Leading question by Derrick Browne

In the finals of the 2009 Venice Cup (women's world championships), China defeated USA. China picked up 12 IMPs on this deal:

Dealer West, nil vul.

NORTH
S AQT752
H 7
D QT92
C K6

WEST
S 3
H KQJ86543
D 653
C 7

EAST
S K9
H 92
D K7
C AT98543

SOUTH
S J864
H AT
D AJ84
C QJ2

Both West players opened 4H. The Chinese North overcalled 4S, East stretched to 5H, and South bid 5S which East doubled.

At the other table, the American North passed 4H around to South, who doubled. North jumped to 5S to invite slam so East was not tempted to double. She also saw that desperate measures were needed to beat this contract so she led the CA and another club, hoping to strike partner's shortage; one down.

At the other table, East made the normal lead of the H9, partner's suit. With the diamond finesse working for declarer, 11 tricks were now easy.

On the next deal, there was again only one lead to beat the contract, but this time China didn't find it:

Dealer East, E-W vul.

NORTH
S 43
H 92
D KJ865
C A432

WEST
S JT5
H QT43
D T2
C KJT8

EAST
S K2
H AKJ875
D A94
C 76

SOUTH
S AQ9876
H 6
D Q73
C Q95

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
3H	Pass	4H	All pass

West's 3H was pre-emptive but East went on to 4H anyway. No lead is appealing and the Chinese South settled on the singleton trump. Declarer drew trumps, then led a club to South's C9 and the C10 from dummy.

North ducked but declarer crossed back to hand with a trump and finessed again. Thanks to the favourable lie of the suit, declarer had three club tricks, on top of her six heart winners and DA. Only a diamond lead beats 4H.

An Echuca bridge holiday will be held 19 to 24 October. Phone John Newman 9888 3903 for details..