

A Trump Demotion

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If you've been following recent Daily Deals, then by now you are familiar with trump promotions. They are not so difficult once you get the hang of them, but it takes real talent to organize a trump *demotion*! Observe this tragic E-W performance:

Board 9
 North Deals
 E-W Vul

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

♠	A K 9 8 7 5 2	♠	K
♥	5 4	♥	
♦	K 8 4	♦	
♣		♣	

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All pass	

Looking just at N-S, playing in 4♠, you can see three top losers in the red suits. Of course, when tackling the trump suit, declarer plays the ♠A first. Most (89%) of the time trumps will be 2-1 and there will be ten easy tricks. But this deal is in the unlucky 11%, and so declarer is destined to go down one.

But, no! Here come E-W, galloping to declarer's rescue! West's opening lead is the ♥K, followed by the ♥A. This sequence of plays cleverly shows a doubleton in the E-W methods (with a longer suit, this pair would lead the ace first). Then a diamond switch is won by East's ace, and a heart comes back. Declarer ruffs resignedly with the ♠9 and, when that unexpectedly holds, the jig is up! Declarer now has no trouble working out the trump position, and crosses to Dummy (twice if necessary) to finesse East out of his ♠QJ3. Making ten tricks!

It was not too smart of West to advertise a doubleton heart when he had no trumps with which to ruff the third round. And East, knowing the trump situation, might have done better not to play that third round of hearts (although a suspicious declarer would surely have smelled a rat if East had *not* done so). So, there you have it, the dreaded trump demotion!