

Trust the Opponents

On this deal, West trusted declarer's bidding and found a brilliant shift at trick two. And declarer trusted West's bidding enough to find a clever counter and bring home his slam.

On lead against six spades, West cashed a high heart and had to decide what to do at trick two. If he had tried to cash a second heart then there would be no story to tell, as declarer would ruff that, draw trumps and run the clubs. But West was in a trusting mood, and concluded that declarer was unlikely to have two heart losers on this auction. So he found the fiendish shift of the club ten, knocking out dummy's only side-suit entry before trumps had been drawn.

Board 9

North Deals
E-W Vul

♠ 2
♥ A K Q J 10 9 4 3
♦ K Q
♣ 10 3

♠ A 10
♥ 7 2
♦ 5 4
♣ A K Q J 8 7 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 7 5 3
♥ 6 5
♦ J 10 8 7 6
♣ 6 5 4

♠ K Q J 9 8 6 4
♥ 8
♦ A 9 3 2
♣ 9

	<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠
	4 ♥	5 ♣	Pass	5 ♦
	Pass	6 ♠	All pass	
Lead:	♥ A			

What should declarer do now? One possibility was to hope for two-two trumps, in which case trumps could be drawn, ending on the board, and the diamond losers then disposed of on the clubs. But declarer reasoned that West had done a considerable amount of vulnerable bidding and probably had eight or nine hearts. That being so, it seemed more likely that West had a singleton trump. So, declarer cashed just one trump on the board and started running the clubs, pitching diamonds. East ruffed the fourth round of clubs, declarer overruffed, returned to the board with a trump (drawing East's last trump in the process), and got rid of the last diamond loser on another club winner. Well bid, well defended, well declared!