

Board 13
 North Deals
 Both Vul

Heart Suit -- Problem

♠ 10 7 2
 ♥ Q 7 6
 ♦ K J 7
 ♣ Q J 9 6



♠ A 3
 ♥ K 10 8 5 2
 ♦ 5 2
 ♣ A 10 8 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	1 ♥	1 NT
Pass	3 NT	All pass	
Lead: ♥ 9			

You sit East in a club duplicate game. Declarer calls for dummy's queen on partner's lead of the ♥ 9, you cover with the king and declarer wins the ace. Declarer next leads the ♣ 4, ♣ 5 from partner, ♣ Q from dummy.

Plan the defense.

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Heart Suit -- Solution

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

NS 1N; N 2♣; N 1♠; EW 1♥; NS 1♦; S 1♣; Par +90

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Pass	3NT	All pass	
Lead: ♥9			

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The actual East, considering the ♠A to be an entry, won the ♣A immediately and led the ♥8 to establish the suit. This would appear to establish five tricks for East, three hearts and two aces. On the run of the diamonds, East then had to discard twice. After letting go a spade, he then pitched a club. Nine tricks for declarer. (Pitching a heart would expose East to an endplay, to lead a club into dummy.)

East should have been mighty suspicious about the first trick. The ♥9 is clearly partner's highest card in the suit. Why didn't declarer (and perforce East) let the lead run around to the ♥J? This would have made it impossible for East to establish hearts after winning the ♣A. East would have had to switch, most likely to a spade, to try to get partner in. Declarer must be afraid of that spade switch.

You could duck the ♣Q and then play the ♣8, if declarer calls for the ♣6, letting declarer win the ♣K. Now if declarer tries to split the club suit, you win two clubs, cash the ♠A and hopefully five total spades, down three. If you cannot stand the strain, win the first club and run the spades for down two.

Your author was the declarer who set this honey trap for East.