

Playing is Listening or How to Outplay DeepFinesse

by Jan van Cleeff

In order to find the right lead it helps a lot when you listen to the bidding carefully. Israeli star Migry Zur-Campanile-Albu proves that the same applies to successful dummy play.

Varenne versus Villa Fabbriche. East and West are the Di-Bello brothers from Italy.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

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

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

West	North Campanile	East	South Willenken
Pass	1♠	Dble	Rdble
INT	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			



Migry Zur-Campanile-Albu

East led a club for declarer's king. Migry tabled the queen of hearts, which held the trick. She continued with a spade to the jack and West won the ace. A club came back for dummy's ace. Due to the take-out double Migry was pretty sure that East possessed a four-card heart suit and therefore played a trump to the jack. East won the ace and played ace of diamonds and diamond. When Migry (deep-) finessed the ten of spades – West did bid INT remember – the five card ending was this:

Having lost three tricks already declarer had to make the rest of the tricks for her contract. North played a trump and East did the best he could do by following low. Now Migry advanced a top spade and East was coupé. Curtains and a ten IMP gain for Varenne since at the other table NS played 2♠ plus 1.

In fact Migry outplayed DeepFinesse. According to the double dummy analyser nine tricks is the maximum for North-South when hearts are trumps.

(It was hard for West to appreciate that after winning the ace of spades a diamond switch is essential, East winning and returning the suit. Now when East wins the ace of hearts a third diamond ensures a further trump trick for the defence. Editor)

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