Club Championship, Mar 13, 2012 - Trump Coup

Board 1
West Deals
N-S Vul

| ♠ | A 9 8 6 4 3 2 |
| ♦ | Q |
| ♣ | 9 5 3 |
| ♢ | J 2 |

♦ Q 10
♥ A K J 9 8 6
♦ —
♣ A Q 10 5 4

♠ J 7 5
♥ 4
♦ A K J 10 8
♣ K 8 7 6

♠ K
♥ 10 7 5 3 2
♦ Q 7 6 4 2
♣ 9 3

West  North  East  South
Aaron  Rishabh  Mark  Pete
1 ♥  2 ♠  3 ♦  Pass
4 ♥  All pass

4 ♥ by West

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trick</th>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>4th</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. N</td>
<td>♠ A</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. N</td>
<td>♠ 9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>♥ 2</td>
<td>♠ Q</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. S</td>
<td>♦ 7</td>
<td>♠ 4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. E</td>
<td>♥ 4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>♠ Q</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. N</td>
<td>♦ 5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>♥ 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. W</td>
<td>♥ A</td>
<td>♠ 2</td>
<td>♠ 6</td>
<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
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1. Suit preference for spades (♠9 [high] asked for a diamond ruff?)
2. Hoping declarer would not ruff himself down.

Both the bidding and the play could have been different. There would have been no story, had West chosen 4♦ instead of 4♥; or had he inserted the ♥8 or 9 for his trump finesse, or simply played trumps from the top. However, the end position was almost very interesting:

♠ 8 6 4 3  ♥-  ♦ 3  ♠ J 2

♥ K 9 8  ♦-  ♣ A Q 10 5  ♠ J  ♥-  ♠ A K J  ♠ K 8 7

♥-  ♥ 10 7  ♠ Q 6 4  ♠ 9 3

The best Aaron could do was to lead to the ♠K and play his winners. This was not effective, as I simply discarded until he had to ruff. The ♥10 stood up as the setting trick.

Exchange the ♠8 and ♠J. Now at trick 7, declarer crosses to dummy with either the ♠K or ♠J and ruffs the ♦J to reduce his trump length to mine. Then he crosses to dummy with a second club to play his winners. At trick 12, the lead will be in dummy with both East and South having only trumps left. Declarer simply covers what South plays, a trump coup.

- Pete Matthews