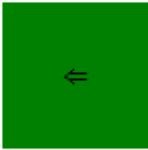


Tales of Akarana It's all in the play.

That was pretty much the case this evening on [Board 3](#).

		W - - - -
	♠AT53	
	♥AK543	
	♦KQ	
	♣K2	
♠842		♠J76
♥QJT62	←	♥97
♦3		♦J975
♣A753		♣9864
	♠KQ9	
19	♥8	
7 HCP 2	♦AT8642	
12	♣QJT	

You would feel happy as Declarer in 6♦ getting the lead of A♣ then a heart switch.

With a quick count of tricks 3 spades, 2 hearts, 6 diamonds and 2 clubs you may feel like claiming.

Not so fast! Dong Huang showed his mettle by checking what could possibly go wrong. In this case it would be a bad trump split. If West has the long diamonds you are out of luck, but there is a way to overcome J fourth in diamonds with East, so long as you think about it early enough.

He ruffed a heart back to his hand and only then played a trump to the Queen, making sure he had enough entries to shorten his own trumps to the same length as East.

The position you want is this one:

North ♠ x ♥ K x ♦ ♣	East ♠ ♥ ♦ J9 ♣ 9
South ♠ Q ♥ ♦ A10 ♣	

North has to be on lead to play the King of hearts.

The entries to dummy proved to be crucial.

Mark Hangartner