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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

14th May 2010 East-West vulnerable. South deals

	NORTH ♠ 9 3 2 ♥ 6 5 4 ♦ 9 6 3 2 ♣ J 9 8	
WEST ♠ Void ♥ K J 9 8 ♦ Q J 10 5 ♣ Q 7 5 3 2		EAST ♠ 8 7 6 4 ♥ 10 7 ♦ K 8 4 ♣ K 10 6 4
	SOUTH ♠ A K Q J 10 5 ♥ A Q 3 2 ♦ A 7 ♣ A	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			2 Club
Pass	2 Diamond	Pass	2 Spade
Pass	3 Club	Pass	4 Spade
All Pass			

Opening lead: Queen of ♦

This is another deal from Eddie Kantar's excellent series "Thinking Bridge" for those who are eager to improve their game.

"The bidding needs a little explanation. Two clubs is strong and artificial, two diamonds is a waiting response and two spades is forcing. Three clubs was being used as a 'double negative' after a two hearts or two spades rebid, denying as much as an ace, a king or two queens. Knowing what is opposite, South bids four spades looking at close to 10 tricks in his own hand. No matter how you and partner play, you have to have a way to show a bust hand facing a two-club opener.

"East plays the eight of diamonds at trick one to show partner the king.

"There is a strong temptation to cross to the nine of spades and take a heart finesse. However, it is a very risky play as you have 10 sure tricks no matter who has the king of hearts! Count tricks. You have six top spades and three aces for nine. If you can ruff a heart in dummy, that makes 10. Do it. Win the ace of diamonds and play the ace of hearts and another heart. No matter what the opponents do, you are in great shape. Just keep that nine of spades over there. When next on lead, concede a second heart, then, finally, ruff your queen of hearts with the nine of spades, your 10th trick.

"Notice that if you take the heart finesse, it loses (what else is new?) and you will not be able to ruff your fourth heart in dummy — East will over ruff.

"As declarer, when you have a 4-3 side suit (hearts) with high trumps in dummy, consider ruffing the fourth card with a high trump in case the suit does not break 3-3.

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