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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

15th May 2010 North-South vulnerable. South deals

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
			1 Spade
Pass	2 Club	2 Heart	3 Club
Pass	3 Spade	Pass	4 Spade
All Pass			

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Cover the East-West cards and decide: How would you play four spades after the lead of the jack of trumps?

North had just enough for an invitational raise in spades, especially since there was a double fit on the hand. South had ample for continuing to game.

West led the knave of trumps and continued with a trump when South ducked. Declarer won the trump continuation and it is appealing to try a diamond to the queen. However, that would be a losing tactic since East wins the king and draws the table's last spade, and declarer has only nine tricks.

Better is to treat the hand as a dummy reversal. Lead a heart to the ace and ruff a heart in hand. Return to dummy twice more in clubs for two heart ruffs, leaving dummy with two clubs, a trump and two diamonds. Declarer plays off the clubs and East can ruff any time he pleases with the master trump, but declarer scores a club and trump in dummy and the ace of diamonds in hand. Making four spades.

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