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[Bridge Tips](#) Tannah Hirsch

12/19/2009 Both vulnerable. South deals.

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

SOUTH 1 Spade 4 NT 6 Spade	WEST Pass Pass All Pass	NORTH 4 Spade 6 Club	EAST Pass Pass
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Opening lead: Seven of

Choosing a line of play that offers a better chance than another does not guarantee which will fail or which will succeed. It simply means that, in the long run, the percentage play will land your contract more often than an inferior line. Here is a case in point.

North's six-club response to Blackwood showed one ace and a void in clubs, and South settled in the spade slam. The same contract was reached at the other table in a team match.

At both tables declarer received the worrisome lead of a diamond. Since that set up a winner for the defense, declarer had to take care of the diamond loser before starting on trumps. The first declarer did it the simple way. At trick three he ran the queen of hearts. When this 50 percent chance came through, declarer crossed to the table with a club ruff, discarded his diamond loser on the ace of hearts and led the ten of trumps. There was no guess here — six spades bid and made.

At the other table declarer tried another line — discard three of dummy's diamonds on the high clubs. That would succeed if clubs were no worse than 5-3 or, if West held only two clubs, the defender also held the bare ace of trumps. Although there is a possibility that East could be able to lead a fourth round of clubs to promote a trump trick for partner, this line offers an almost 80 percent chance of success. Unfortunately, West ruffed the third club with the queen of trumps, and declarer still had to lose the ace of trumps — down one.

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