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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

12/23/2009 North-South vulnerable. South deals.

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

SOUTH 1 Heart 4 Heart	WEST Pass All Pass	NORTH 1 NT	EAST Pass
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Opening lead: Queen of

For many, the lure of the finesse is so strong that they are blinded to all other possibilities. The 10th trick on this deal should be easy to spot, yet many players are apt to miss it.

South is somewhere between three hearts and four hearts as a rebid. At this vulnerability, however, it pays to be aggressive, so South selected the game bid. It is unlikely that North would have accepted had South simply invited with three hearts.

West led the queen of spades, and declarer could count nine tricks. The 10th could come from a successful finesse in either hearts or clubs. South correctly decided that clubs offered the better chance since to bring in the heart suit without loss declarer would also need a 3-2 break. So, after winning the first trick with the ace of spades, declarer led a club to the queen, losing to the king. Declarer eventually lost a trump trick and a trick each in spades and diamonds — down one.

The fulfilling trick was available in clubs, but not via a finesse. Declarer should win the opening spade lead in hand and play the ace and queen of clubs. Either defender could win with the king, but declarer wins any return, gets to dummy with the ace of spades and discards a loser on the jack of clubs to claim 10 tricks. Indeed, this approach would give declarer the luxury of trying the heart finesse for a possible overtrick

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