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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

23rd April 2010 Both vulnerable. North deals

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

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 Club	Pass	1 Diamond	Pass
2 Diamond	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 Diamond	All Pass		

Opening lead: Two of ♣

A declarer has an enormous advantage in the play of the cards – he can see all his side's assets while the defenders must convey information by the cards they play. Consider this deal.

After North's opening bid and diamond support with his rebid, slam would have been a fair shot if North had a second ace. When Blackwood revealed that two aces were missing, South stopped in five diamonds.

West led the deuce of clubs and had to find a way to partner's hand to get a club return for the ruff. Left to his own devices, West would have had a toss-up. However, East made life easy for partner. He followed with the jack of clubs, obviously announcing an entry in the higher-ranking side suit. Two tricks later the contract was down one trick as East won the spade shift with the ace and gave partner a club ruff.

e-mail: gorenbridge@aol.com