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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

26th May 2010 East-West vulnerable. North deals

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

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1 Diamond	Pass	1 Spade
Pass	2 Spade	Pass	3 Club
Pass	3 Diamond	Pass	6 NT
All Pass			

Opening lead: Ten of

Here's a deal from the semifinals of the Lebhar IMP Pairs at the ACBL Spring North American Championships in Reno, Nev. Sitting South was Swedish star Peter Fredin.

North-South bounced into six no trump because of a bidding misunderstanding. West led the ten of hearts, and dummy's jack was allowed to hold the trick. An unsupported secondary honor from a short major suit is a strange lead against a slam, so South decided that West had some honors in the minor suits and was reluctant to lead from them.

Given this information, what was his best chance for 12 tricks if the spade finesse was going to fail and if clubs were not going to break? It did not take him long to find the answer – he led the three of clubs!

West treated this with great suspicion, but eventually decided that he could not gain by playing the jack. A few seconds later he found out how wrong he was. Declarer returned to hand with the king of clubs, lost the spade finesse and claimed 12 tricks – five clubs, three spades and two in each red suit.

In about a minute, an absolute zero had been turned into an outright top board!

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