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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

8th April 2010 North-South vulnerable. East deals.

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

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 Heart	Pass	1 NT*	Pass
Pass	3 Club	3 Heart	2 Club
4 Heart	All Pass	----- *forcing	4 Club

Opening lead: Eight of ♣

It might seem that South had lost his senses in pressing on to game despite a minimum opening bid. However, the auction had marked North with a singleton club, so all their points were working. West led a club to East's ace, and the defender shifted to a diamond. Declarer won perforce, ruffed a club in dummy, came to hand with the jack of spades and ruffed his remaining club.

The king of hearts lost to West's ace and West persevered with a diamond, declarer ruffing. The auction provided the clue to winning the contract. East was marked with a distributional hand probably including a singleton, and it was almost certainly in hearts.

Backing his judgment, declarer continued by ruffing a diamond, crossing to the king of spades and ruffing another diamond. Declarer now cashed the ace of spades and continued with a spade. Down to nothing but trumps, West was helpless. He had to ruff and then lead away from his J 8 of trumps into South's Q 10 tenace. Four hearts bid and made.

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