

Thanks to GorenBridge and STLTODAY.COM

[Read original >](#)

[http://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/article\\_10ae8fb0-42f1-53bb-8a0d-62462e22a78f.html](http://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/article_10ae8fb0-42f1-53bb-8a0d-62462e22a78f.html)

Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011 Both vulnerable. South deals.

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

North	East	South	West
--	--	1 Heart	Pass
2 Heart	Pass	4 Heart	All Pass

Opening lead: 10 of ♦

"Strange hand," said the kibitzer. "It depends not so much on which finesse declarer wins as on which he loses!"

Sitting South on this deal was Harold S. Vanderbilt, who invented the scoring table that changed the game from auction to contract while on a cruise from California to Havana. There can be no finer tribute to him than to point out that, in almost 90 years of contract bridge, there have been few changes to his original table. He was one of the leading players of his day and devised the Vanderbilt Club, one of the first artificial systems of the game.

With the success of the contract clearly hinging on keeping East off lead for a club through his weakness, Vanderbilt won the ace of diamonds at trick one, cashed the ace and king of spades and crossed to dummy with the nine of trumps to lead the jack of spades.

When East followed low, Vanderbilt spurned the ruff and discarded his diamond loser. West won with queen and smartly returned a spade, trumped by East and overtrumped by South. Declarer returned to dummy with a trump to the ten and led the queen of diamonds, covered by the king (had East followed low, declarer would have discarded a club) and ruffed.

Dummy was re-entered with the queen of trumps, a club went away on the jack of diamonds and declarer could try a club to the king for an overtrick – tough luck!

[gorenbridge@aol.com](mailto:gorenbridge@aol.com)