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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

12<sup>th</sup> Jan 2010 Both vulnerable. South deals.

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

| North   | East     | South   | West   |
|---------|----------|---------|--------|
| --      | --       | 1 Spade | 3 Club |
| 3 Spade | Pass     | 4 Heart | Pass   |
| 4 Spade | All Pass |         |        |
|         |          |         |        |

Opening leads: King of ♦

In competitive auctions, it can be a tremendous advantage to be able to show two suits with one bid. The drawback is, if you don't buy the contract, you might have provided declarer with a roadmap of how to play the hand, and that can be an even greater asset to declarer.

We are not sure we would have opened South's shapely 9-count in first seat with such two moth-eaten suits, but there is no arguing with success. North-South reached a game that was reasonable only because of West's three club bid, which showed a sound minor two-suiter. South took full advantage of that in the play.

West led the king of diamonds, ruffed in the closed a hand. A trump lead was won with king and a trump was returned to East's ace. The diamond continuation was ruffed, and a club was led to the king. Declarer called for the jack of hearts, covered by the king and ace, and a low club to the ten lost to the knave.

Now declarer took advantage of knowing that West had started with 10 minor-suit cards and had already shown up with three in the majors. After a club ruff provided an entry to dummy, South took the marked finesse for East's ten of hearts by running the nine, then repeating the finesse to land his game.

Note that, if East-West sacrifice in five clubs and declarer plays the hand carefully, including a winning guess in the club suit, the contract will be defeated just one trick. Perhaps once you have given away your holding, it pays to declare rather than to defend.

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