

Thanks to GorenBridge and STLTODAY.COM

[Read original >](#)

http://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/article_2778bcbe-71e1-5732-a064-389f4544bc19.html

Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

13th Jan 2010 Both vulnerable. South deals.

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

North	East	South	West
--	--	1 NT	Pass
3 NT	All Pass		

Opening lead: King of ♣

It goes without saying that the defenders can signal each other as to whether or not they like the opening lead by playing a high card to encourage and or a low card to suggest a switch. However, not everyone is aware that declarer can suggest the same thing to the opening leader by signaling in the same way!

The auction was routine. With 28 high-card points and a five-card suit in the combined eight-card holding, three no trump should have been simple. Indeed, switch one of South's low clubs for a low diamond, or North's for that matter, and nine tricks were there for the taking.

West led the king of clubs, and there were only eight fast tricks available. To complicate matters, the only suit declarer could develop for a ninth trick was clubs, and the opening lead made that difficult. For example, if South grabbed the ace and returned a club, West could shift to a spade at trick three and the defenders would collect five tricks before declarer had nine.

The best shot was to encourage West to persevere with clubs. Fortunately, East's singleton club was the seven and, when that appeared, declarer contributed the eight. Since two lower clubs were missing, West thought the opening lead had struck gold and continued with the queen of clubs. Only when East discarded did West realize he had been conned. Declarer took the ace and returned the suit and, though East shifted to a spade, it was too late. Declarer won and conceded another club, and the long club was set up as the fulfilling trick.

gorenbridge@aol.com