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Bridge Tips **Tanna Hirsch**

15<sup>th</sup> March 2011 North-South vulnerable. West deals

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

North	East	South	West
--	--	--	4 Spade !
Pass	Pass	X	Pass
5 Club	Pass	5 Diamond	Pass
6 Diamond	All Pass		

Opening lead: Ace of ♣

Not too long ago, if you scanned the entries for major events at ACBL National Championships, it was rare to find a foreign star. These days there seems to be more International stars than Americans in the field. This deal is from The Edgar Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs at the 2010 Fall North American Championships in San Diego. Sitting West was Norwegian Jon Sveindal and East was another Norwegian internationalist Tor Helness.

We have frequently railed against the shabby pre-empts currently so popular with the experts. Here, West's pre-empt pushed North-South too high because of the bad trump break. Best result would be in a notrump game by North-South, but West's inspired opening bid put paid to that. It was impossible in four spades doubled – a slam was not impossible to defend four spades from South's point of view.

There was nothing to the play once West led the ace of clubs and continued with the suit. Declarer could ruff away East's king of clubs, but East had to score his ten of trumps for the setting trick.

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