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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

17th Feb 2011 Neither vulnerable. East deals

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

North	East	South	West
--	2 Diamond	X	XX
Pass	2 Heart	2 Spade	Pass
4 Spade	All Pass		

Opening lead: Three of ♥

Here's another European Championship deal. Sitting South was Turkey's Orhan Ekinici.

The bidding and opening lead at the two tables was identical. East's two diamonds showed a weak two-bid in a major and West's redouble asked for partner's suit. The rest of the auction was natural.

At one table declarer won the opening lead with the ace of hearts, and took a losing club finesse. There was now no way to avoid losing two clubs, a heart and a trump for down one.

At the other table, declarer won the opening heart lead and led a trump to the ace, discovering the bad trump division. Next came four rounds of diamonds, on which declarer parted with his remaining hearts. In with the fourth diamond, West had no good return – either black-suit would cost a trick in that suit and the contract.

Mathematically, there is little to choose between the two lines of play. The main difference is that, should you elect to take two club finesses you are unlikely to get your name into the newspaper.

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