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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch 18th Nov 2010

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

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

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 Spade	2 Club	2 Diamond	Pass
2 Heart	Pass	2 Spade	Pass
3 Heart	Pass	4 Spade	All Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Heading into the latter part of the year, Tommy took stock. The cards had been good to him. Suits were breaking badly with monotonous regularity so Tommy, who could not stand the prosperity of normal breaks but who became a tiger at the table when faced with an evil trump break, had been fattening his wallet. Here is another example where his chronic overbidding brought unexpected results.

There are those who would pass initially with the South hand, and some who would be content to play a spade partial with the North-South cards. Not Tommy. He happily opened, then pushed on toward game.

West led the jack of spades, taken by dummy's ace. The ace and king of hearts were cashed, and a heart ruff established two winners in Tommy's hand. A spade was led from dummy and East rose with queen, West discarding a high club. A club to the ace picked up Tommy's king and, to prevent Tommy from scoring a cheap ruff, thereby shortening his trumps, West cleverly shifted to a diamond.

Tommy finessed the jack, then ruffed a club in hand. The ace and king of diamonds followed, declarer discarding a heart from hand. East was down to K 9 of trumps and a club while Tommy had 10 8 of trumps and a heart. A winning diamond was led from the table and East was a dead duck. If the defender discarded, so would Tommy and another diamond would limit East to one trump trick. If East ruffed low, Tommy would overruff and play his high heart. If East ruffed high, Tommy would discard his heart.

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