

Bridge Column - S T L -Goren - Tanna Hirsch

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19<sup>th</sup> June'10 Both vulnerable. South deals

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

South	West	North	East
2 Club	Pass	2 Diamond	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Opening lead: Jack of

We have often stressed how the defenders must use the way they play their cards to relay critical information about their holdings to each other. On this deal it might seem there is little to tell, but that is not really so.

South's bidding shows a balanced 23-24 points, and North has just enough to raise to game. West has a normal opening lead of the top of his spade sequence. Declarer wins and leads the queen of diamonds. Since there is no entry to dummy, it is essential for West to give his partner a count in diamonds. From an odd number of cards, West must play low; from an even number he starts an echo.

Once West follows to the first diamond with the deuce, East knows declarer has only two cards in the suit and East can win the second round and the suit is dead. What difference does it make? Here it is the difference between handing declarer his contract on a platter or holding him to eight tricks.

If East wins the second diamond trick, declarer can win only eight tricks unless the defense errs – three spades, two hearts, one diamond and two clubs – but give him a second diamond trick.

e-mail: [gorenbridge@aol.com](mailto:gorenbridge@aol.com)