

Thanks to GorenBridge and STLTODAY.COM

[Read original >](#)

Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

1st Jan 2010

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

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

North	East	South	West
1 Club	Pass	1 Heart	Pass
4 Heart	Pass	6 Heart	All Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♦

To get the new year started right, cover the East-West cards and decide how you would play six hearts after West leads the ten of diamonds.

You have reached a small slam on a power auction and West gets off to the best attack – the ten of diamonds. Did you make 11, 12 or all 13 tricks?

If you took all the tricks, you are a very good guesser. If you won only 11, you have had an unlucky start to 2011. And if you scored exactly 12 tricks, you either got only one finesse right or you are an excellent technician!

If hearts are 3-2, you can claim 12 tricks by refusing to take any finesse at all. Win the diamond lead and cash the ace and king of hearts. If both opponents follow, you are assured of 12 tricks even if the queen did not drop. Cash the remaining diamond honor and then eliminate spades. It does not help the defender with the outstanding trump to ruff (he will be endplayed as described next).

Now you are down to nothing but clubs and trumps in both your hand and dummy. Simply toss a defender on lead with the queen of hearts. That defender must either return a club, solving your problem in that suit, or yield a ruff-sluff, eliminating the club loser. Simple, is it not?

[gorenbridge@aol.com](mailto:gorenbridge@aol.com)