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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

1st September 2010 Both vulnerable. North deals.

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

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

Opening lead: Ten of ♣

Italy grabbed the early lead in their European Championships match against Iceland, but Iceland soon struck back.

The Italians had a fairly normal auction to four hearts — North's two spades was an invitational heart raise. After a couple of probing bids, four hearts was the final contract.

West led the ten of clubs, taken in dummy as declarer parted with a spade. The king of spades lost to the ace, a diamond was led to East's ace and a diamond was returned. Declarer won with the king and led a low heart to the queen and king. Back came a club and the defenders now had to score another trump trick. Declarer ruffed low, West overruffed, a diamond return was ruffed high in dummy, declarer drew trumps and conceded down one.

In the other room the contract was four hearts by North after a strong club opening and a transfer sequence. The opening lead was the jack of spades and declarer made 10 tricks — 13 Imps to Iceland and Italy's lead was down to two. Eventually, Italy emerged winners by exactly that margin.

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