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**Bridge Tips** Tannah Hirsch

20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011 East-West vulnerable. East deals.

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

North	East	South	West
--	Pass	1 Spade	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 club	Pass
3 Spade	Pass	4 Spade	All Pass

East-West vulnerable. East deals.

Opening lead: Nine of ♦

Here's another deal from the Nail Life Mater Pairs event at the recent ACBL Fall North American Championships held in Orlando, Fla., reported by Barry Rigal. The field was more or less evenly divided between three no trump and four spades. In the auction above, North's sequence showed a limit raise in spades with exactly three trumps, so four spades by South was a logical contract.

Looking at all four hands, it might seem that declarer's only losers at the spade game was a trick in each side suit. However, at a few tables the contract failed. Can you see which four tricks declarer lost?

Go to the top of the class if you selected a trump as the fourth trick! East won the opening lead with the ace and switched to a heart, taken by the ace. The heart return was taken in dummy and declarer cashed the two top trumps. When the queen dropped, declarer had to lose a club trick but that was that.

At some tables, however, East dropped the queen on the first trump lead, so declarer won and finessed dummy's eight of trumps next — down one. Pretty defense, found at the table by Ron Smith and Brian Glubock, among others.

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