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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

21st August 2010 Both vulnerable. East deals.

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

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

Opening lead: Eight of ♣

West was rather cautious to sell out to three diamonds — three in either major would not have proved expensive. However, there was a possibility that three diamonds could be defeated, so ...

West led the eight of clubs, covered by the queen and taken with the ace. East shifted to the ten of spades, on which West followed with the queen. How should declarer continue?

On the auction, West probably has 10 major-suit cards, and East therefore likely holds a doubleton in each of partner's suits. He almost surely holds the ace of trumps, so he must be stripped of spades before he wins that card if a spade ruff is to be avoided. That is all declarer really needs to make his contract — he must allow West's queen of spades to hold the trick!

West can do no better than continue with a spade. Dummy wins cheaply, declarer comes to hand with the king of hearts and runs the jack of diamonds. That loses to the queen, but East can do declarer no harm. No matter how the defense continues, declarer will have time to force out the remaining diamond honor and hold his losers to two trumps and one in each black suit.

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