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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

23rd Dec 2010 Neither vulnerable. North deals

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

North	East	South	West
1 Heart	Pass	1 Spade	Pass
2 Diamond	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠

Cover the East-West cards on this hand from the second round of the Spingold Team Championship and decide: Which two cards do you discard from dummy when the defenders start by playing three rounds of spades?

Dummy is squeezed – if you discard two hearts you won't be able to exploit a 3-3 split. If you discard a club, you will run short of communication from hand to hand and a diamond gives up on 3-3 diamond splits or, if diamonds are 4-2, when the doubleton diamond contains an honor.

Nick L'Ecuyer found the winning line. He discarded two hearts from dummy on the second and third spades, then cashed the three top clubs, West discarding a spade. Then he polished off the defense by cashing the last spade, forcing a heart discard from West. Next the ace, king and another diamond threw West on lead. The defender could cash his winning diamond, but then had to lead a heart away from the king into declarer's combined ace-queen tenace, giving South his ninth trick. Only perfect

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