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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

23<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2010 North-South vulnerable. East deals.

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

North	East	South	West
-	Pass	1 Diamond	Pass
1 Spade	Pass	2 Club	2 Heart
3 Heart	4 Heart	5 Club	X
All Pass			

Opening lead: Ten of ♥

This deal, reported by Barry Rigal, is from the Von Zedtwitz Life Master Pairs at the ACBL Summer North American Championship. Sitting South was Steve Garner.

The auction was straightforward, but it did contain a clue to the distribution. When an expert backs into the auction on the second round, it is usually because he has length in opener's first suit. Declarer put that knowledge to good use.

Declarer ruffed the heart opening lead and ran the seven of clubs successfully. After ruffing a diamond in dummy, he played the queen of clubs, losing to the ace. The heart return was ruffed and declarer ran his trumps, coming down to this position:

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

Declarer cashed his three top spades, then threw East in with a spade for the second and last trick for the defense. East was forced to return a heart, and dummy took the last three tricks — five clubs doubled and made.

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