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Bridge Tips **Tanna Hirsch**

24th March 2011 Neither vulnerable. North deals

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

North	East	South	West
1 Club	Pass	1 Heart	Pass
2 Heart	Pass	3 NT	Pass
4 Heart	All Pass		

Opening lead: Queen of ♦

Some might consider responding on the South hand with a jump to two no trump rather than introduce such a shoddy four-card major. But with all primes and a ruffing value, finding a heart fit could produce a superior game. After South confirmed a game-going balanced hand with only four hearts, North had an automatic correction to the suit game.

West led the queen of diamonds and, with normal breaks, declarer would have to lose a trick in each major. The fate of the contract depended on holding the club losers to one. Should declarer play on clubs early by cashing the king and leading another, the defenders will come to two tricks in the suit to defeat the hand.

Declarer won the opening lead in hand with the ace and realized there was no need to tackle clubs until the number of trump losers were determined. If hearts were 4-1, declarer would have to bring in the clubs without loss by cashing the king and finessing East for the queen. So the ace and king of hearts were cashed and, when both defenders followed, declarer could afford a safety play.

A low club was led to the ace, and the three was returned toward dummy's K 8. When West followed low, declarer inserted the eight, not caring whether it won or lost. If East took the trick, clubs were splitting 3-2 and declarer's only other losers would be a spade and a trump.

It does not help West to insert the ten on the second round of clubs, since declarer can establish a winner by force. Nor does it matter if East has club length. When West shows out on the second round, declarer rises with the king and returns a club toward the jack. Declarer loses only one trick in each suit except diamonds.

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