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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

27th Jan 2010 Both vulnerable. South deals.

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

| North | East | South | West |
|-----------|------|---------|----------|
| -- | -- | 1 Heart | X |
| 2 Diamond | X | 3 Heart | All Pass |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Opening lead: King of ♣

Study this deal from the Mitchell Open Board-a-Match Teams at the recent ACBL Fall North American Championship held in Orlando and decide: Would you rather play or defend three hearts after the lead of the king of clubs?

Suppose you elect to play. West shifts to a diamond at trick two to the queen and East's ace and the jack of spades is returned. You win but no matter how you proceed there is no way to come to nine tricks.

However, you should not elect to defend. All you need to give yourself a sporting chance – duck the jack of spades!

Of course, if East switches the attack you will fail, but there is a good chance he will continue with spades. Win and cash your spade winner and the ace of hearts, then lead a low trump to the seven. The nine of hearts is an entry for you to discard your diamond loser on the 13th spade!

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