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Bridge Tips **Tannah Hirsch**

2nd October 2010 North-South vulnerable.
South deals.

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

South	West	North	East
1 Club	Pass	1 Spade	Pass
2 Spade	Pass	4 Club	Pass
4 Diamond	Pass	6 Club	All Pass

Opening lead: King of ♥

It is not always easy to decide on the proper trump suit when you have a 5-4 fit in one suit and a 4-4 fit in another. As a general rule, if your tricks are all in high cards, the 5-4 fit is, obviously, less likely to run into a disastrous break. But if you need to ruff one or two tricks to reach your goal, the 4-4 fit is usually more flexible. Consider this deal from a team match.

The key to slam was South's four-diamond cue-bid. Having already limited his hand to a minimum by simply raising to two spades, South realized the power of his three aces and continued with the cue-bid in diamonds. North needed no more.

At the other table, the contract was six spades. No matter how declarer maneuvered, there was a loser in each red suit. Six clubs, however, was another matter.

Declarer won the opening lead in dummy with the ace and drew trumps. When the suit broke 3-2, the slam could be claimed. Declarer ran five spade tricks to discard the losing heart from hand, then ruffed a heart for his 12th trick – five spades, four clubs and a heart ruff in hand and the two red aces.

The key is that, when playing in the 4-4 fit, you can obtain a discard on the five-card suit. There is no such trick when the longer suit is trumps.

gorenbridge@aol.com