

Thanks to GorenBridge and STLTODAY.COM

[Read original >](#)

http://www.stltoday.com/entertainment/article_aed21874-d4f8-51d7-bbdd-ab49c0d0a073.html

Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

3rd August 2010 Both vulnerable. South deals.

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

| SOUTH | WEST | NORTH | EAST |
|-------|------|-------|----------|
| 1 NT | Pass | 6 NT | All Pass |

Opening lead: Nine of ♥

On some hands you can obtain a complete count of your opponents' holdings. On others, you have to be satisfied with a partial count, but that might be all you need!

The auction was quick and to the point. With a balanced 18 points opposite a 15-17 point no-trump opening, the jump to slam was automatic.

West led the top of his heart sequence and, once the ace of diamonds was forced out, declarer could count eight tricks — three hearts, two diamonds and three clubs. To land the slam he had to bring in four spade tricks. That was easy if the suit broke 3-2 or if the jack dropped singleton. If not, declarer would need to take a finesse for the jack. But either defender could hold four spades. Can declarer avoid having to guess the location of the knave?

Declarer won the opening lead in dummy and immediately led a diamond to the jack, which held. When declarer continued with the queen of diamonds, East made a good decision by again refusing to win the trick. Declarer now had to abandon the suit without having a complete count of the diamonds.

Next came three rounds of clubs, West discarding a heart on the last. Two more rounds of hearts followed, to which both defenders contributed hearts. Declarer now had all the information he could obtain, but he needed no more.

East was known to have started with three hearts, five clubs and at least two diamonds, therefore he could not have started with more than three spades. That made it a simple matter for declarer to continue by taking the king and queen of spades and, when East discarded on the second round, a finesse of the ten of spades provided the fulfilling trick.

e-mail: gorenbridge@aol.com