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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

3rd Feb 2011 Both vulnerable. South deals.

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

North	East	South	West
--	--	Pass	Pass
1 Club	Pass	1 NT	All Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠

There is a reason why most bridge columns use game or slam hands – parts core deals usually take up more space than is allotted by daily papers. Consider this deal from the Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs at the recent ACBL Fall North American Championships held in Orlando, Fla.

North's one club opening bid, by agreement, showed either a minimum balanced opener, or any strong hand. The same contract was reached at most of the tables. Sitting East-West were U.S. internationalists Brian Platnick, of Evanston, Ill., and John Diamond of Boca Raton, Fla.

Diamond led his fourth-best spade won in hand with the ten as East followed with the four. A heart to the knave was allowed to win, and a diamond to the jack lost to the queen. West continued with a spade to the ace and another heart finesse lost to the king.

The defenders cashed out their spades, forcing declarer down to K 5 of diamonds and J 8 7 of clubs. East discarded his heart and started an echo with the four of clubs. The defenders took their two high clubs. East put declarer in hand with a club to lead away from his king of diamonds for down three and a near top score for East-West.

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