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**Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch**

4<sup>th</sup> November 2010 North-South vulnerable. North deals.

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

North	East	South	West
Pass	3 Diamond	Pass	Pass
4 Club	Pass	4 Spade	All Pass

The Opening lead: Ace of ♦

We must be getting old. On this deal from a pairs event at the recent ACBL Summer North American Championships, we would not have dreamt opening three diamonds with the East hand or of passing with the South and West hands. As for reopening with the North hand at the four-level ...

West led the ace of diamonds and shifted to a low club to the ten, queen and ace. The percentage play in trumps is to take the finesse, but South, Tom Walsh of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, chose a different line. He crossed to dummy with a diamond ruff and led the queen of trumps. When East failed to cover, he rose with the ace and great was the fall thereon. He cashed out for 10 tricks and a joint top.

Why did he take an anti-percentage play in trumps? He realized that, if the king did not drop, he could fall back on a club finesse to get a discard of a heart on the king of clubs. Well played.

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