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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

6th Jan 2011 Neither vulnerable. North deals.

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

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

Opening lead: Nine of ♦

There are two reasonable lines for South to adopt in his four spade contract. Can you spot them, and which is better?

North elected to open one diamond rather than one club to provide for an easy rebid. However, four spades would have been reached regardless of which bid North chose.

West's diamond lead was won in hand. Declarer cleared the remaining high diamond, took the two top spades and discarded his club on the queen of diamonds. Now declarer ran the nine of hearts. West won with the ten, cashed the king and ace and gave his partner a heart ruff. Down one – unlucky.

We slightly prefer winning the king of diamonds and unblocking the ace, then leading a club. East wins and, regardless of his return, declarer can draw two rounds of trumps and discard two hearts on the minor-suit queens, holding his losses to two hearts and the ace of clubs.

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