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**Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch**

8<sup>th</sup> June 2010 Neither vulnerable. West deals.

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|   | NORTH<br>A 10 5 2<br>4 3<br>A K 7<br>10 9 8 4 |  |
| WEST<br>J 7 6<br>5<br>J 10 6 5<br>Q J 7 5 2 |   | EAST<br>4<br>Q 9 8 7 2<br>Q 9 8 3 2<br>6 3 |
|   | SOUTH<br>K Q 9 8 3<br>A K J 10 6<br>4<br>A K  |  |

| SOUTH   | WEST     | NORTH   | EAST |
|---------|----------|---------|------|
|         | Passlub  | 1 Club  | Pass |
| 1 Spade | Pass     | 2 Spade | Pass |
| 4 NT    | Pass     | 5 Heart | Pass |
| 7 Spade | All Pass |         |      |

Opening lead: Seven of

This deal is from the semifinals of the Vanderbilt KO Team Championship, a premier event at the ACBL Spring North American Championships recently held in Reno. The bidding at three of the four tables was virtually identical, as was the opening lead.

Three of the four declarers drew either two or three rounds of trumps and then started on hearts from the top. Whether or not a defender ruffed the second heart, declarer had to lose a heart trick because of the foul heart split – down one.

At the fourth table East elected to show he was awake by overcalling North's one-club opening bid with one heart! The rest of the auction proceeded as above.

After the spade lead, declarer drew three rounds of trumps, cashed a high heart, crossed to dummy with the king of diamonds and took a heart finesse. When that won, declarer claimed the grand slam, announcing that he would ruff one heart in dummy and discard one on the ace of diamonds.

East was awake enough to enter -1510 on the scorecard!

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