

Thanks to GorenBridge and STLTODAY.COM

[Read original >](#)

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/entertainment/stories.nsf/story/762A6FD5F9BB0CAF8625773D0008DE09?OpenDocument>

Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

9th June 2010 Neither vulnerable. South deals.

	NORTH Q 3 A 5 3 2 K J 7 3 5 3 2	
WEST 9 8 7 5 4 4 Q 10 8 4 2 Q 9		EAST A K J 9 A 9 6 5 A 8 7 6 4
	SOUTH J 10 6 2 K Q 10 8 7 6 Void K J 10	

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 Heart	Pass	3 Heart	Pass
4 Heart	All Pass		

Opening lead: : Nine of

Hands with four spades and five hearts can be notoriously difficult to bid, especially if the opponents intervene. Some 50 years ago Pittsburgh star Bill Flannery devised a convention where these hands were opened with two diamonds. While the convention still has die-hard adherents, as in this hand from the Trials to select the American teams for the 2009 World Championships, it never really caught on.

Where South opened with one heart as dealer, he elected to treat his hand as a good opening bid and went on to game over North's limit raise. West made the normal-looking lead of a spade from his sequence, East won with the king and shifted to a club. If South guesses right and plays the king, the defenders cannot untangle their club tricks and the contract rolls home. However, if South inserts the jack, the defense collects two spades, two clubs and a club ruff – down two.

This was the auction in the other room:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2 Diamond	Pass	4 Heart	All Pass

After South's Flannery two-diamond opening bid, North upgraded his queen of spades and responded by jumping to game in hearts, and East had an opening lead problem. Since South was known to hold nine or 10 cards in the majors, a spade lead might give declarer time to set up spades, if necessary. He had to choose between his minor-suit aces and, since he had longer clubs, he reasoned that a club trick might go away rather than a diamond.

His opening lead of the ace of clubs proved fatal. Declarer rose with the king of clubs on the continuation, dropping the queen. South drew trumps, ending in dummy, discarded a spade on the knave of clubs and claimed 10 tricks.

e-mail: gorenbridge@aol.com