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**Bridge Tips** Tannah Hirsch

14<sup>th</sup> August 2010 Neither vulnerable. South deals.

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

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 Diamond	Pass	1 Spade	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♥

If this deal proves anything, it is that ignorance is rarely bliss. To their advantage the defense exploited declarer's inability to divine the lie of the cards.

South's light opening bid had no effect on the final contract. North has a sound opening bid and a clear raise to three no trump once partner shows sound values and a balanced hand.

West led a low heart and, when dummy appeared, declarer could count eight tricks provided diamonds were 3-2 or if 4-1, the ten dropped or could be finessed. So, in an attempt to set up a ninth trick, declarer won the jack with the king of hearts in hand and ran the jack of spades, losing to the king.

A routine heart return would have resulted in declarer racking up nine tricks in quick time after forcing out the ace of diamonds, but East shifted to the six of clubs. Looking at all four hands, it is easy to see that declarer can get home by rising with the ace of clubs — the suit is blocked so the defenders can collect only one club trick. But South did not know that, and made the normal play of a low club. That permitted West to bank a club trick and revert to hearts. Now the defenders could not be prevented from scoring a total of two heart tricks and one trick in each of the other suits, for a one-trick set.

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