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Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch

22nd October 2011

Dealer : North Vul : Both	NORTH ♠ K 3 ♥ J 10 9 6 4 ♦ A 9 3 ♣ A J 7	
WEST ♠ 9 7 2 ♥ 3 ♦ 10 4 ♣ Q 10 9 8 5 4 3		EAST ♠ Q 6 4 ♥ A K 7 5 2 ♦ J 2 ♣ K 6 2
	SOUTH ♠ A J 10 8 5 ♥ Q 8 ♦ K Q 8 7 6 5 ♣ Void	

North	East	South	West
1 Heart	Pass	2 Diamond	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 Spade	Pass
3 NT	Pass	4 Diamond	Pass
4 Heart	Pass	5 Heart	Pass
5 Spade	Pass	5 NT	Pass
7 Diamond	All Pass		

Opening lead: Four of ♦

On this deal from the Educational Foundation Pairs at the recent Summer North American Championships, George Jacobs and Steve Beatty bid smoothly to a grand slam, which was slightly flawed. Still ... Two diamonds was a game force, two no trump showed a better than minimum hand with at least three diamonds. Four hearts was Roman Key-Card Blackwood with diamonds as the agreed trump suit and five hearts promised two key cards and a useful void. Five spades was an inquiry for the trump queen and the grand slam was soon reached.

West led a trump, and the play did not take long. Declarer won the opening lead in hand, ruffed out the queen of spades, drew trumps and ran his spades and all but one diamond, coming down to a three-card ending:

	NORTH ♠ Void ♥ Void ♦ Void ♣ AJ7	
WEST ♠ Void ♥ Void ♦ Void ♣ Q109		EAST ♠ Void ♥ A ♦ Void ♣ K6
	SOUTH ♠ Void ♥ Q8 ♦ 6 ♣ Void	

Declarer led his last trump and East, who had already parted with one high heart, had to decided in which suit declarer was void After much thought, East elected to part with the ace of hearts, and declarer claimed the last two tricks with the queen and eight of hearts!

Just another routine grand slam.

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