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Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011

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

South	West	North	East
--	--	1 Club	Pass
1 Heart	Pass	2 Heart	Pass
2 Spade	Pass	4 Heart	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 Spade	Pass
6 Heart	All Pass		

Opening lead: Three of ♥

One of the most interesting sites on the Internet is that of "The Bridge World" ([www.bridgeworld.com](http://www.bridgeworld.com)), the world's oldest continually published bridge magazine, now edited and published by Jeff Rubens. It includes interesting hands and features for players of all levels. Here's an example.

North-South did well to steer clear of the 4-4 spade fit – a spade slam would have had no play after a diamond lead. South's four no trump was Key-Card Blackwood in which the king of trumps counts as a fifth ace. North's response showed two key cards and the queen of trumps and South settled in the heart slam. West led a trump and the slam was cold if spades were 3-2. However, there is a way to protect against any spade division as long as hearts were no worse than 3-1. Declarer won the opening lead and drew the outstanding trumps, then cashed the ace and king of clubs and ruffed a club in hand. The stage was set for the denouement – the king of spades was cashed, followed by the ace of diamonds and another.

It made no difference which defender won the diamond – the endplay is perfect. A minor-suit return yields a ruff-sluff. A high spade return is ducked in second hand and, if the suit is 4-1, a finesse position now exists to pick up the suit. Exiting with a low spade is equally futile. Note that if declarer fails to cash a high spade from hand, East can win the diamond exit and shift to a spade, and West must come to a spade trick.

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