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Bridge column by Tanna Hirsch

5<sup>th</sup> May 2010

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

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 Club	Pass	1 Heart
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 NT
All Pass			

Opening lead: Ten of ♦

Both vulnerable. East deals.

This deal is from the final round of the Blue Ribbon Pairs at the ACBL Fall North American Championships held in San Diego. Sitting North-South were the eventual winners, Bjorn Fallenius and Bart Bramley.

With a combined 24 high-card points and no long suit, North-South reached an "iffy" no trump game. A spade lead would have left declarer with no play but West elected to lead a diamond, taken in dummy with the king. The heart finesse lost to the king and West persevered with diamonds, won in the closed hand with the queen.

With entries at a premium, Bramley boldly led the king of clubs from hand, losing to the ace. With no fast entry back to hand, East should have shifted to a spade, but he persevered with diamonds, setting up two winners in his hand but with no fast entry to them. Declarer won, cleared the ace and jack of hearts and reverted to a club. Whether or not West rose with the queen, declarer had nine tricks – one spade, three hearts, three diamonds and two clubs. Scoring 600 points was worth 34 of a possible 38 matchpoints. (05/05/1

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