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Bridge Tips Tannah Hirsch

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Neither vulnerable. North deals.

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

NORTH	EAST	South	West
1D	Pass	2 Club	2 Spade
3 Club	Pass	3 Spade	Pass
4 Club	Pass	6 Club	All Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♥

There is an obvious reason, when given the choice, for choosing to play in major rather than a minor — you can stop a level lower. On this deal from the Cavendish Invitational Teams, North-South never even mentioned hearts, let alone finding their 4-4 fit, on their way to six clubs.

North-South were playing a forcing club system, and one diamond promised 11-15 points and at least two diamonds. South struck gold by electing to show his good minor suit rather than his featureless hearts, and slam was soon reached via two spade cue-bids.

West led a Rusinow jack of hearts — lower from two touching honors. Declarer won with dummy's king and led a club to the king and ace. The trump return was taken in hand with the ten, the ace of spades was cashed and a spade was ruffed. Declarer returned to hand with the ace of diamonds and ruffed another spade. After drawing the outstanding trumps, declarer claimed — he collected one spade, two hearts, four diamonds, three trumps and two spade ruffs.

At all the other tables South responded one heart and, afraid of trump losers, never moved beyond four hearts.

e-mail: gorenbridge@aol.com