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BRIDGE

## If Declarer Has a Secret, Keep It

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The Machlin Women's Swiss Teams was won at the Spring Nationals in Reno, Nev., by Phyllis Fireman of Chestnut Hill, Mass.; Migry Zur Campanile of New York; Shannon Cappelletti of Dania Beach, Fla.; Shawn Quinn of Houston; and Martine Verbeek and Wietske Van Zwol from the Netherlands.

NORTH(D)			
♠ 8 6			
♥ A Q J 10 8 5			
♦ 8 5 4 2			
♣ 8			
WEST		EAST	
♠ K 4 3		♠ A Q 8 7	
♥ K 7 4 3		♥ 9 2	
♦ Q 7 6		♦ K J 9 3	
♣ J 10 6		♣ 4 3 2	
SOUTH			
♠ J 10 9 2			
♥ 6			
♦ A 10			
♣ A K Q 9 7 5			
North and South were vulnerable. The bidding:			
North	East	South	West
2♥	Pass	2 N.T.	Pass
3♥	Pass	3 N.T.	Pass
Pass	Pass		
West led the club jack.			

They did well on the diagramed deal from the final day.

At the other table, North opened two diamonds, showing a weak two-bid in either major. South inquired with two no-trump. And when North rebid three clubs, a minimum weak two in hearts, South passed.

This contract made exactly, declarer losing three spades and one diamond.

In the given auction, when Fireman (South) learned from the three-heart rebid that her partner had a middling weak two in hearts, she took a shot at three no-trump.

We can see that this contract was easy to make, because clubs were 3-3, and the heart finesse was working. But Fireman did not have that advantage. She wanted to try to maximize her chances, especially if clubs were 4-2, as they seemed to be, given West's club-jack opening lead.

South took the first trick with her queen and immediately played a heart to dummy's queen. Then declarer cashed dummy's heart ace, discarding the diamond ten from her hand. When the king did not drop, South led the spade eight from dummy.

East rose with her ace and returned a club. Declarer took the trick and cashed her other top club, claiming when both opponents followed suit.

Minus 110 and plus 600 gave the Fireman team 10 international match points.

Although it did not help here, South did well to conceal her club length and strength at the beginning. Try to mislead the defenders about the closed hand.