

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH TANNAH HIRSCH & BOB JONES

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LOGIC VS. DREAMS

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

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

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♣

When you have a major that is so good it doesn't need support, play in that major!

South could have bid four hearts at his second turn, as that was where he wanted to play. He jump shifted to three clubs first to tell partner that he had a powerhouse with slam potential. He had no interest in playing in clubs even after partner's raise. His hearts were too massive to play in a minor.

This bid of four hearts is not

"correctable" to five clubs. When South re-bid hearts after North gave a preference to clubs, South was saying that he didn't need any heart support. His suit could play opposite a void, if necessary. He introduced his club suit just to bring a possible slam into the picture. In fact, South will occasionally jump shift into a "fragment," that is, a suit with less than four cards in it, just to show his slam potential. North, with a minimum and no slam interest, correctly passed.

The contract was defeated at many tables in a recent tournament. West led his ace of clubs, an obvious singleton on the auction. The only hope for an entry to the East hand is in diamonds. West shifts to a diamond and gets his ruff. Wait a minute! What if East tries to cash a second diamond before giving the ruff? Four hearts making four! This happened more than once. Those East players had been dreaming that they had two defensive tricks. They were following their dream when they tried to cash a second diamond.

In bridge, we have to follow our logic, not our dreams.

(Tannah Hirsch welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this newspaper or to Tannah Hirsch c/o Tribune Content Agency, LLC., 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, TX 75001. E-mail responses may be sent to gorenbridge@aol.com.)

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SOMETIMES YOU JUST HAVE TO LAUGH

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

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

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
Pass	?		

A bridge player can get so lost in the moment that he loses sight of the big picture. Funny things can happen. In tournament bridge, players often have special agreements and they are required to fully inform their opponents about the meaning of their bids. Problems arise when a player forgets one of his agreements. His partner must still inform the opponents, but without waking partner up. Partner must be kept in the dark. The right time to inform the opponents is sometimes at the end of the auction, and sometimes at the end of the play, but always at a point when it will not help partner.

In the given auction, one pass too soon, North announced that they were playing the Drury Convention and North's two-club bid had shown

a raise in hearts with invitational values. It is proper for the declaring side to inform the defenders about this before the opening lead, but North hadn't reckoned on East backing into the auction at this point, and back in he did!

East balanced with double and South was on the spot. If he had remembered his agreements, he would have bid four hearts at his last turn. He passed again, trying mightily to do the ethical thing. West bid three diamonds and North competed to three hearts. East passed and we were back to South, who wanted desperately to bid four hearts. Bending over backward in his effort to be ethical, he passed again. What a guy!

West was having none of this. Four diamonds he bid, and it was pass-pass back to South, who could stand it no longer. He finally bid four hearts, making five.

DIRECTOR!

East-West, who had just played this board against the most ethical player in the room, if not the galaxy, were demanding a score adjustment. The director ruled that they could have passed the board out in two hearts, then in three hearts, but they continued to push until South had no real choice but to bid four hearts. Result stands.

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CHECK YOUR EGO AT THE DOOR

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
 ♠ 10 8 6 5 3
 ♥ K Q J 6 4
 ♦ 10 3
 ♣ 6

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

SOUTH
 ♠ A K Q 4 2
 ♥ 10 2
 ♦ K J 7 2
 ♣ Q J

The bidding:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
Pass	1♣	2NT	4♠
5♣	5♠	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: Three of ♣

When you fall in love with a hand, be prepared for a broken heart! This hand came up in a duplicate bridge game, where all competitors play the same hands. After South's opening bid, many West players overcalled two diamonds to tell partner about their good suit. Some West players bid two no trump, the "Unusual No Trump". This shows five-five in the minors and less than an opening bid, a treatment that is very popular among tournament players and this hand illustrates why. North bashed

out four spades but East was undaunted. Holding a massive fit for one of partner's suits, he happily competed to five clubs.

South was perplexed. He had the boss suit, spades and his partner had raised him to game. He loved his hand. He had 16 points and an excellent suit. His opponents were trying to push him around with the lowly club suit. What the heck was going on here? These people are peasants! Their clubs against my spades! Who do they think they are?

Welcome to bridge, South. East-West are cold for five clubs on this lucky lie and North-South, who have to sacrifice in five spades or lose the hand, are lucky not to go down three! After a club to the king and a diamond switch, dummy can ruff the third diamond with the ten and declarer escapes for down two. If East had the jack of spades, down three it would be.

West, with a pretty good diamond suit, won the hand by getting his meager club suit into the game. The key to bridge is to put your partner in a position to make a good decision. Once West bid two no trump, East's decision to bid five clubs was easy.

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A BOTTOM IS A BOTTOM

Both vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
 ♠ 7 5 4
 ♥ A 9 3 2
 ♦ 9 8 6 3 2
 ♣ 5

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

SOUTH
 ♠ K 8
 ♥ K J 6 4
 ♦ K 10
 ♣ Q 9 8 6 4

The bidding:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1♦	2♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♦

Many experts believe that a two-level overcall in a minor suit, with borderline values, is a losing proposition. It should be a six-card suit, or a very good hand. South, who obviously held a different view, overcalled two clubs, and West made a trap pass. East-West were playing Negative Doubles, which means that a double by West here would have been for takeout, not for penalties. In an auction like this, for those who play Negative Doubles, opener must re-open through the two-level with less than three cards in the overcalled suit. That re-opening bid should be double whenever he has a reasonably balanced hand, except for the

shortness in the opponent's suit. This way you can still penalize bad overcalls like this one.

East duly re-opened with double resigned to playing in hearts should West bid that suit. West completed his plan by passing and two clubs doubled was defeated four tricks for plus-1,100. Was South's overcall the worst thing the opponents did on this board? No! What was North thinking (or not thinking) when he passed this hand out in two clubs doubled? Did he think that would be a good result for his side?

He should have re-doubled at his last turn. This low-level re-double when your side has been doubled for penalties is called an SOS Re-double. At duplicate bridge, if you make a doubled contract you already have a top board, so re-doubling to increase your score is needless. A top is a top. This re-double says, "Partner, we are going to get killed in this contract. Please try something else." That something else might get killed also but it hardly matters. A bottom is a bottom. At least you tried. That would have gotten North-South to two hearts on this hand, which can't be defeated! East-West would have to judge very well to stop in a makeable spot.

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Saturday, October 19, 2013

GOREN BRIDGE

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q 1 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ **A K 6 3** ♥ **A K 10 9 2** ♦ **J 6** ♣ **9 3**

The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
3♣ ?

What action would you take?

Q 2 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ **9 7 4** ♥ **J 8 7** ♦ **9** ♣ **A J 7 5 4 2**

The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♦ Pass 1NT Pass
2NT Pass ?

What is your choice?

Q 3 - Both vulnerable. South deals.

♠ **K J 10 6 5** ♥ **A 3** ♦ **4** ♣ **K J 7 6 3**

As South, what is your opening bid?

Q 4 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ **A K 7 5 3** ♥ **10 7** ♦ **A K 10 5 4** ♣ **8**

The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♣ ?

Q 5 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ **K 9 8 6 2** ♥ **3** ♦ **Q 10 5** ♣ **A J 4 3**

The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
2♥ Pass ?

Partner's bid shows a decent six-card suit and less than an opening bid. What call would you make?

Q 6 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ **A K Q 5 2** ♥ **Void** ♦ **A J 10 8 4** ♣ **A J 10**

Certainly you will open the bidding. What opening bid would you choose?

Look for answers on Monday.

(Tannah Hirsch welcomes readers' responses to gorenbridge@aol.com.)

Sunday, October 20, 2013

GOREN BRIDGE

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EXTRA CHANCES

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ **K 9 7**
♥ **A Q 9 7 4**
♦ **10 4 2**
♣ **8 2**

WEST
♠ **Q J 6**
♥ **10 8 6**
♦ **8 7 6 3**
♣ **K Q 7**

EAST
♠ **A 10 8 5 4**
♥ **3**
♦ **Q J 5**
♣ **J 10 9 3**

SOUTH
♠ **3 2**
♥ **K J 5 2**
♦ **A K 9**
♣ **A 6 5 4**

The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1NT Pass 2♦ Pass
2♥ Pass 3NT Pass
4♥ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

A good declarer will look for the most likely route to making his contract, and then sniff about for any extra chances that might be available. North correctly forced to game with his nine high-card points and five-card suit. North-South were playing transfers over one no trump, and North's two-diamond bid was a

transfer to hearts, promising at least five cards in that suit. North continued with a bid of three no trump, showing only five hearts, and giving South the choice of games. South, with four-card heart support, routinely corrected to four hearts.

This hand looks like it depends on the spade finesse, a 50-50 proposition, but there is an important extra chance. There is a 25 percent chance that both the queen and jack of diamonds are in the East hand. South should draw trumps ending in dummy and play a diamond to his nine right away. This play improves his chances to 62.5 percent (we'll spare you the math).

Should this diamond play lose to the jack or the queen, declarer has lost nothing. He can still make his contract when the ace of spades is onside.

Declarer was hailed as a hero after this hand, but all he did was recognize his extra chance. Well done!

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

Q 1 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ **A K 6 3** ♥ **A K 10 9 2** ♦ **J 6** ♣ **9 3**

The bidding has proceeded:

EAST 3♣ **SOUTH** ? **WEST** NORTH ?

What action would you take?

A - Although it is risky, you must bid with this hand or the opponents will rob you blind. In time, they will own your house, your dog and the keys to your car. It is close between a bid of three hearts, emphasizing your good suit, and a takeout double, bringing spades into the picture. We like the double.

Q 2 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ **9 7 4** ♥ **J 8 7** ♦ **9** ♣ **A J 7 5 4 2**

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH 1♦ **EAST** 2NT **SOUTH** ? **WEST** INT Pass ?

What is your choice?

A - Partner has shown 18-19 high-card points and has guaranteed at least a partial fit for your six-card club suit. You have too much trick-taking potential to pass. Bid three no trump.

Q 3 - Both vulnerable. South deals.

♠ **K J 10 6 5** ♥ **A 3** ♦ **4** ♣ **K J 7 6 3**

As South, what is your opening bid?

A - There are two schools. The first school opens one club, hoping partner will respond in a red suit and they will be able to rebid one spade and then two spades. This keeps the bidding at a low level. The other school opens one spade, to shut the opponents out of the one level in case it is they who want to start bidding the red suits. Both schools have many followers. We would open one spade on this hand.

Q 4 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ **A K 7 5 3** ♥ **10 7** ♦ **A K 10 5 4** ♣ **8**

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH 1♣ **EAST** ? **SOUTH** ? **WEST** ?

A - This is a very good hand that could take a lot of tricks, if you find a fit with partner. Four spades is a reasonable contract opposite four small spades, two small diamonds and no points. Bid one spade now and be determined to introduce your second suit next, even at the four-level if necessary.

Q 5 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ **K 9 8 6 2** ♥ **3** ♦ **Q 10 5** ♣ **A J 4 3**

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH 2♥ **EAST** ? **SOUTH** ? **WEST** ?

Partner's bid shows a decent six-card suit and less than an opening bid. What call would you make?

A - Pass. When partner pre-empts in your shortest suit, stay out of the auction unless you have a very good hand, at least 15 points. With less you won't have a game and anything you do might lead to disaster.

Q 6 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ **A K Q 5 2** ♥ **Void** ♦ **A J 10 8 4** ♣ **A J 10**

Certainly you will open the bidding. What opening bid would you choose?

A - Obviously the choice is between one spade and two clubs. You should not open two clubs with a two-suited hand unless the high-card points are overwhelming. This excellent hand has great potential, but not overwhelming high cards. Open one spade.

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