

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH TANNAH HIRSCH & BOB JONES

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TOMMY IN TROUBLE

Both vulnerable. West deals.

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

The bidding:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♥
2♣	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♣

South was our old friend, Trump Coup Tommy, who got himself into a bit of trouble over this hand.

West led the king of clubs and continued accurately with the ace. Tommy had to ruff in dummy and could no longer finesse in trumps should East hold four to the jack. Tommy cashed the king and queen of hearts and his eyes lit up when West showed out on the second round. The only hope was a trump coup, his specialty, and this was an easy one for a master like Tommy.

Tommy cashed the ace, king and jack of diamonds, discarding his last club. Now Tommy had to ruff a good diamond in order to reduce his trump length to the same as East. Tommy

cached one more diamond and discarded his third spade.

This left the following position:

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

Here is where Tommy got in trouble. He could have ruffed a diamond, cashed the ace of spades and crossed to the king of spades in dummy. Any card off the dummy then would have created a trump coup against East. Tommy instead cashed another diamond, discarding his ace of spades with a great flourish. He then ruffed a diamond and played his remaining spade to dummy's king to reach the same end position. A lovely trump coup to bring home this slam.

The opponents were appalled. It was bad enough they had to pay out good money when Tommy found a trump coup, but they felt he was rubbing salt in the wound when he discarded that ace of spades. All was forgiven when Tommy went down in an easy three no trump contract two hands later. They couldn't begrudge Tommy his one special skill.

(tcaeditors@tribune.com)

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A CARELESS DISCARD

Both vulnerable. South deals.

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

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: King of ♠

South made an aggressive opening bid. He could not have been faulted had he passed. If he had known that his decision would lead to his becoming declarer in a slam with two small trumps in his hand, he would have passed quicker than we can blink!

The opening lead was made and South was delighted with his dummy. Finally an easy one! He would draw the trumps and try to run the diamond suit. If that suit divided three-three, he would have 13 top tricks. If not, he

could take the club finesse for an overtrick. Life was good!

The good life took a turn for the worse when West showed out on the first round of trumps. The unexpected trump loser was a disappointment, but not the end of the world. South could still make his contract if the rest of the hand was friendly. South cashed the four top hearts, West discarding a club and three spades. He then played the king, ace and queen of diamonds to discard his spade loser.

Had West discarded only two spades, South would have let his fate rest on the club finesse. The third spade discard made the hand an open book. Declarer could confidently place the queen of spades with West from the opening lead. That meant that West had started with at least five spades and East at most two. South now ruffed a spade in dummy to be sure that East was stripped of that suit and then threw East on lead with the master trump, certain that the defender would have to play a club. The location of the club king was no longer important. No matter which opponent had that card, six hearts bid and made!

(Tannah Hirsch and Bob Jones welcome readers' responses sent in care of this newspaper or to Tribune Content Agency, LLC., 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, TX 75001. E-mail responses may be sent to tcaeditors@tribune.com.)

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NEW MINOR FORCING

None vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
 ♠ J 8 7 6 2
 ♥ A 3
 ♦ K J 4
 ♣ 10 6 3

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

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: Seven of ♣

This is the kind of disaster that befell the players of yesteryear. The defenders took the first four club tricks, then sat back and waited for their king of spades. A clairvoyant declarer might succeed in three no trump by discarding his queen and ten of spades on the diamonds. This would tempt West to exit with a small spade to the now singleton ace. South could then execute a major suit squeeze against West and make his contract. A clairvoyant defender can

ruin all this by leading a heart at trick five, ruining declarer's timing and breaking up the squeeze. We will leave it to the readers who are interested to work out the details for themselves.

This hand should have been played in four spades, which has 10 easy tricks, even with the king of trumps offside. What went wrong?

Good players today have added a simple convention to their arsenal: New Minor Forcing. It applies when opener has re-bid in no trump after a major suit response. In the given auction, instead of three no trump, North should re-bid three clubs. This is the "new" minor, asking opener if he has four cards in the unbid major, hearts in this case, or three-card support for his major. Opener would then bid three hearts, showing four, and North would continue with a bid of three no trump. South should reason that if partner wasn't interested in his heart suit, he must have been looking for three-card spade support. That's exactly what he has and he should continue with a bid of four spades, reaching the best contract.

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USE THE KNOWN CARD

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
 ♠ A 4
 ♥ K 9 8 4
 ♦ 9 8 7 6
 ♣ A J 4

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

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♥	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: King of ♣

To quote Damon Runyon, "The race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, but that's the way to bet." Good bridge players live by the same creed.

With nothing else to go on, the success of this slam depends on the diamond suit. The correct play is to

run the nine on the first round before going back to dummy to play a diamond to the queen. This will work whenever East has any two of the three missing diamond honors, or the king. This is a big improvement over just taking the diamond finesse.

On this hand, South has something else to go on. The opening lead of the king of clubs marks West with the queen. That might not always be the case, but that's the way to bet! Presuming that the queen is where we expect it to be, the contract cannot be defeated if the opponent's trumps divide two-two.

South immediately tested trumps and learned the good news. He then trumped a club and cashed the ace, king and queen of spades. South then ruffed his last spade on the table and led the jack of clubs. He discarded his three of diamonds on this trick and West was in misery. He had to yield a ruff-sluff or lead a diamond into the ace-queen tenace. Either way, his opponents scored on their slam.

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q 1 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ J 10 9 3 2 ♥ Q 6 5 2 ♦ K 8 7 ♣ 2

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT	Pass	?	

What is your re-bid?

Q 2 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ 10 8 2 ♥ A 7 ♦ A K Q 9 8 3 ♣ Q 10

Pass-Pass to you. What is your opening bid?

Q 3 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ A K J 7 5 ♥ A Q 9 4 ♦ J 5 3 ♣ A

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
?			

What action do you take?

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

♠ K Q 10 8 5 4 3 ♥ 9 6 ♦ 3 ♣ A 8 5

You are the dealer. What is your opening bid?

Q 5 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ K Q ♥ 7 2 ♦ A K Q 9 8 7 ♣ 5 3 2

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
?			

What now?

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

♠ A K 8 5 4 ♥ 9 ♦ J 5 ♣ A J 10 9 4

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
?			

What is your re-bid?

Look for answers on Monday.

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A GOOD PLAY

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
 ♠ 7 6 4
 ♥ K J 3
 ♦ A K 9 8 6
 ♣ 7 4

WEST
 ♠ A K J 5
 ♥ A Q 4
 ♦ J 5 4
 ♣ Q J 5

EAST
 ♠ 8 3 2
 ♥ 8 7
 ♦ Q 7 3
 ♣ K 10 8 3 2

SOUTH
 ♠ Q 10 9
 ♥ 10 9 6 5 2
 ♦ 10 2
 ♣ A 9 6

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♦	Pass	1♥	1NT
2♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

Bridge experts disagree on many things, but there is one thing upon which they all agree: Defense is the toughest part of the game!

North-South are out stealing on this hand. East-West can make part scores in no trump and clubs. North's

aggressive opening and raise put too much pressure on them and North-South bought the contract in two hearts. Can the contract be defeated?

East gave a discouraging signal to the opening lead and West shifted to the queen of clubs. East knew that South would hold up his ace on this trick to prevent him from gaining the lead for a spade play. West countered brilliantly by overtaking the queen with the king! South could no longer afford to hold up his ace, so he won and led a trump.

West stepped up with his ace and followed his partner's defense perfectly. He underled his jack of clubs to East's ten and the spade return netted the defense three spade tricks. Now the jack of clubs forced dummy to ruff and West's trump queen was promoted to the setting trick. Well done!

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GOREN BRIDGE

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

Q 1 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

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

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
INT	Pass	?	?

What is your re-bid?

A - In days of yore, players had to pass with this hand. Today, when most players use New Minor Forcing with good hands, a re-bid of two hearts is “pass or correct,” showing a weak hand with at least five spades and four-plus hearts. Bid two hearts.

Q 2 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ **10 8 2** ♥ **A 7** ♦ **A K Q 9 8 3** ♣ **Q 10**

Pass-Pass to you. What is your opening bid?

A - There was a point in time when any opening other than one diamond would have been unthinkable. Today, many good players would open one no trump with this essentially balanced hand. We like it!

Q 3 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ **A K J 7 5** ♥ **A Q 9 4** ♦ **J 5 3** ♣ **A**

The bidding has proceeded:

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

What action do you take?

A - If you play the modern Two-Over-One approach, a forcing raise to three hearts is perfect. If not, this hand poses a real problem. It is way too good to bid four hearts. Bid four no trump!

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

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

You are the dealer. What is your opening bid?

A - It is easy to promote the playing strength of this hand and open one spade. At this vulnerability, we prefer to put maximum pressure on our opponents. Open three spades!

Q 5 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ **K Q** ♥ **7 2** ♦ **A K Q 9 8 7** ♣ **5 3 2**

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
?	?	?	?

What now?

A - We had high hopes when we opened this hand, but nothing has gotten easier. Two spades could be the winner, but we see no real alternative to bidding our excellent suit once again. Bid three diamonds.

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

♠ **A K 8 5 4** ♥ **9** ♦ **J 5** ♣ **A J 10 9 4**

The bidding has proceeded:

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

What is your re-bid?

A - A bid of three clubs, breaking the three-level, is called a “high reverse.” It shows “extras.” Partner’s bid puts opener under some pressure. If opener doesn’t have a fit, or stoppers, or “extras,” he must sometimes re-bid his five-card major. Bid two spades.

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