

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH TANNAH HIRSCH & BOB JONES

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DON'T COMPLAIN

None vulnerable. South deals.

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

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	Pass	2♦**	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♦**	Pass
4♥	Pass	7♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

*Game force
**Blackwood

Opening lead: Two of ♦

This hand is from a recent world championship.

North was a very aggressive bidder, maybe too aggressive. There is an important bridge principal: Before you complain to partner about his over bidding, be sure he can't complain about the way you played it.

This was a high-tech auction, befitting a world championship. Two diamonds was a game forcing raise and four diamonds was Blackwood. Four hearts showed zero or three key

cards and North went for the moon. How would you play this grand slam on a trump lead?

Trying to ruff a club would be poor play. South drew three rounds of trumps, East discarding a heart. South then played the ace and king of hearts and ruffed a heart. East discarded a club. This was the position:

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

South now cashed the ace and king of clubs in dummy and led the last trump, discarding his last heart. East had to surrender. If he discarded a club, dummy's clubs would be good. At the table, he discarded a spade and all of South's spades were now good. South forgave his partner for the auction.

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EXTRA CHANCES

Both vulnerable. South deals.

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

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
INT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

The queen of spades lead was ducked to the king and South had to find the queen of clubs, or all was lost. What is the "percentage" play in the club suit? By percentage play, we mean the play that will give you the most tricks in the long run, the long run being the rest of your life. On this hand, declarer played the ace of clubs and a club to the jack, failing to

make his contract.

Was he unlucky? While it is true that the queen of clubs is equally likely to be in either hand, the percentage play is to cash the king and then lead the jack, intending to finesse if it is not covered. Why is that? Both finesses have an equal chance of success when clubs split three-two. When the suit splits four-one, you can only pick up the suit without loss when East has the four. There is some fancy footwork you might perform if you absolutely knew that West had four clubs to the queen, but that would not be normal play. The play of cashing the ace and leading to the jack, while a winning finesse, still leaves you with a club loser when West started with four. The recommended play works when East has four to the queen-nine. You will discover this on the play of the jack and be able to go back to dummy, assuming the jack was covered, and then finesse against the known nine in the East hand.

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IT'S BETTER TO BE LUCKY THAN GOOD

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ 5 4 3
♥ Q 10 5 2
♦ 6
♣ A K 8 5 2

WEST

♠ Q 9 6
♥ 6
♦ K J 10 9 8 3
♣ J 10 3

EAST

♠ 7 2
♥ 7 3
♦ A Q 5 4 2
♣ Q 9 7 4

SOUTH

♠ A K J 10 8
♥ A K J 9 8 4
♦ 7
♣ 6

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♣*	Pass	6♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

* One ace

Opening lead: Jack of ♣

North's jump raise showed a limit raise with four-card support. South was off to the races with Blackwood. North-South had agreed to play a version of Blackwood known as "1430," where the five-club and five-diamond responses are inverted. There is a theoretical reason for

doing this, which is not very compelling, in our opinion, but that was their agreement. North responded five clubs, showing one key card (out of five, the four aces and the king of trump), and South bid six hearts counting on partner for a third-round spade control. North could have the queen, a doubleton or South could take a finesse, if necessary. This was a reasonable gamble.

West had to decide what to lead and chose the "safe" jack of clubs. He had no reason to find the winning diamond lead, and the slam came home. South was able to discard his diamond on the king of clubs and then take the losing spade finesse.

Why was this a lucky result? Had North-South not been playing "1430," North would have responded five diamonds to the four no trump bid. East would have doubled this to get a diamond lead and the unlucky spade position would have wrecked the slam. As we said, it's better to be lucky than good.

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BID WHAT YOUR HAND IS WORTH

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ K 9 6
♥ Q 10 7 5
♦ 10 6 4
♣ A 10 2

WEST

♠ A J 10 8 7 5 2
♥ 8
♦ 2
♣ K 7 5 3

EAST

♠ Q 4 3
♥ 6 2
♦ 8 5 3
♣ J 9 8 6 4

SOUTH

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

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♥	2♠	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
7♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♦

West, afraid of the adverse vulnerability, contented himself with a timid two-spade pre-empt. Bad decision! This hand is worth a four-spade pre-empt non-vulnerable and is certainly worth three spades at any vulnerability. Look at the difference!

Over two spades, North bid three hearts. One has to stretch a bit over pre-empts and the North hand is just

good enough to bid three hearts. South was ecstatic! He had the hand of a lifetime and his suit was raised! What to do? After a raise, he can assume the hearts are solid. If partner has the ace of clubs he has them all. Blackwood won't help. If partner shows one ace, it could be the useless ace of spades. South cue bid three spades, the opponent's suit. North should recognize this as a slam try. There is no way to play less than game. Why make extra bids unless you're interested in slam? North should cue bid his ace of clubs and South will happily bid the grand slam! Well done!

What would happen if West bid three spades? North, who was just barely good enough to support partner at the three-level, isn't good enough to bid four hearts. He would have to pass. North-South will still get to six hearts, of course, but their chance to bid the grand slam is probably lost. The pre-empt strikes again!

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

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

♠ A K 9 3 ♥ A Q 9 3 ♦ J 10 6 ♣ J 2

The bidding has proceeded:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♣	Pass	1♦	?

What action would you take?

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

♠ K J 4 ♥ 8 6 ♦ A K 6 5 3 ♣ Q J 7

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			

What is your re-bid?

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

♠ 7 ♥ A J 9 8 6 2 ♦ K Q 5 4 ♣ 8 3

You are the dealer? Pass, one heart or two hearts?

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

♠ J ♥ K 8 5 ♦ Q J 5 ♣ A K J 10 7 5

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
?			

What is your re-bid?

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

♠ A 5 2 ♥ 10 9 6 ♦ Q 10 4 ♣ A 9 4 2

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			

What bid would you make?

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

♠ A K J ♥ A K Q 6 4 ♦ 6 4 ♣ K 7 4

You are the dealer. What is your opening bid?

Look for answers on Monday.

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CREATIVE PLAY

Both vulnerable. West deals.

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

The bidding:

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

Opening lead: King of ♥

South ruffed the second heart and played the ace of spades and then the queen of spades from his hand. He could have crossed to dummy and taken a spade finesse, but with no re-entry to dummy to repeat the finesse, that would only gain if East had a doubleton king. That was against the odds after West showed a seven-card heart suit.

East continued with a third heart. South ruffed and drew the last trump. Decision time! If diamonds were three-three, South could make the rest by running the diamonds and discarding all his clubs. If the diamonds were not three-three, he

could then play a club to the jack and make four spades whenever East had both club honors with one spot card or a doubleton club honor. All this was quite against the odds. West was known to have seven hearts and two spades. He might have shifted to a singleton at trick two, so South thought he was likely to be two-two in the minors. Assuming the club honors were split (the usual assumption), trying to run the diamonds would leave him down one. What's the solution?

South played a small club from his hand expecting West to rise with his doubleton honor, which he did. West shifted to a diamond. South tested the diamonds and then finessed East for the other club honor and made his contract.

Note that a diamond play early from either defender would have defeated the contract, but that would have been a big play with those great diamonds in dummy.

Was there another chance for the defense? If West had the nerve to duck the queen of clubs smoothly, South would have a brutal guess when East won the king and returned the suit. What would South have done? We'll never know.

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

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

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

The bidding has proceeded:

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

What action would you take?

A - Double. This hand would routinely open one no trump, but don't make that bid now. You don't have a stopper in either of their suits and you are four-four in the unbid suits. Double is perfect.

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

♠ **K J 4** ♥ **8 6** ♦ **A K 6 5 3** ♣ **Q J 7**

The bidding has proceeded:

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

What is your re-bid?

A - It is sometimes correct to raise partner's major suit with only three-card support. Good trump quality and a ruffing value are keys telling you when to do it. Bid two spades.

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

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

You are the dealer? Pass, one heart or two hearts?

A - With exciting distribution and two decent suits, this hand is worth opening at the one level. Bid one heart.

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

♠ **J** ♥ **K 8 5** ♦ **Q J 5** ♣ **A K J 10 7 5**

The bidding has proceeded:

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

What is your re-bid?

A - It is tempting to jump to three clubs, but overcome the temptation and settle for two clubs. This hand is not quite worth a jump re-bid.

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

♠ **A 5 2** ♥ **10 9 6** ♦ **Q 10 4** ♣ **A 9 4 2**

The bidding has proceeded:

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

What bid would you make?

A - Partner may have opened a bit light in third seat. Do not punish his enterprise by jumping to the three-level. If you play the Drury Convention, where a two-club bid shows 10-plus points and a fit, now is the time to use it. If not, settle for the conservative two spades.

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

♠ **A K J** ♥ **A K Q 6 4** ♦ **6 4** ♣ **K 7 4**

You are the dealer. What is your opening bid?

A - The choice is between one heart and two no trump. We like the idea of telling partner our exact strength and that our hand is balanced. Open two no trump.

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