

Tuesday, November 5, 2013

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH TANNAH HIRSCH & BOB JONES

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BROMIDES

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ A 8 5 3

♥ 6 4 2

♦ 3

♣ K Q 10 8 6

WEST

♠ K 6 4

♥ 10 7

♦ A 8 6 5 4

♣ J 7 3

EAST

♠ 10 7 2

♥ A J 8 3

♦ J 9 7

♣ 9 5 2

SOUTH

♠ Q J 9

♥ K Q 9 5

♦ K Q 10 2

♣ A 4

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: Five of ♦

There are many old bromides in bridge. An old bromide is a piece of time-worn advice that is usually, though not always, true. Examples are “third-hand high” and “cover an honor with an honor.” Another is “don’t cover the first honor off dummy.”

At duplicate bridge, an overtrick in a routine contract is precious. A player who can take 11 tricks on a hand where other players only take

10 has earned a terrific score.

The opening lead went to the jack and queen. Declarer led the queen of spades from hand and West covered with the king. Dummy’s ace won and another spade was led, declarer inserting the nine when East played low. Next came the jack of spades getting the good news about the even split, followed by the king of diamonds to force out the ace and assure his contract. That set up nine tricks without needing the jack of clubs to fall — four spades, two diamonds and three clubs. When the clubs divided evenly, South had 11 tricks and an excellent score.

West should have remembered the old bromide and not covered the queen of spades. This finesse will win, but declarer will have no winning continuation. If he now plays the jack of spades, West will cover with the king and East’s 10 will be promoted as a winner. South will still make his contract, but has no chance for 11 tricks.

Let’s all brush up on our bromides. Sounds like advice from a dentist.

(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.)

Wednesday, November 6, 2013

GOREN BRIDGE

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RESTRICTED CHOICE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ Q J 5 4

♥ 6 4 3 2

♦ A 8 7 6

♣ 5

WEST

♠ A 10 9 6 2

♥ Q

♦ 10 9 4 3

♣ A 10 9

EAST

♠ 8 3

♥ J 9 8

♦ K Q J 5

♣ Q J 8 3

SOUTH

♠ K 7

♥ A K 10 7 5

♦ 2

♣ K 7 6 4 2

The bidding:

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

Opening lead: Ten of ♦

Every bridge player should have a working knowledge of the principle of “Restricted Choice.” The mathematics that support this principle are difficult to explain and we won’t present them here, but it can be stated simply like this — “When an opponent’s honor card falls in such a way that a finesse is

created, that finesse should usually be taken.”

Declarer won the first trick in dummy and led a club. When East played low, he decided the ace was offside and played a low club from hand. West won and continued diamonds. South ruffed in hand and ruffed a club on the table. He then played a trump to the ace and noted the fall of the queen — a trump finesse had been created!

He now ruffed another club, and when the ace fell on this trick, his ambitious contract was now within reach. He led another trump and inserted the 10 when East played low. He cashed the ace and conceded a spade, making five!

Experts routinely make the “Restricted Choice” play and don’t lose one second of sleep on the occasions when it loses. They know it is the right play and they will take many more tricks in the long run by making it.

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GOREN BRIDGE

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PRAYERS CAN BE ANSWERED

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

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

The bidding:

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

Opening lead: Four of ♦

This hand is from a recent duplicate game, which affects tactics slightly.

South opened with a 15-17 point no trump and partner bid a Stayman two clubs and then raised to three no trump. This was a bit too aggressive. The North hand is only worth a bid of two no trump after using Stayman. South will carry on to game with 16 or 17 points.

South got the four of diamonds lead and thought he was dead. Off

five or six diamond tricks to start and he only had five tricks for sure — two spades, two clubs and one heart. Yeeesh!

He said a silent prayer and put up dummy's queen of diamonds at trick one. Lo and behold, it held, and he was in the game! Declarer counted his tricks and the news was grim. Even if he could pick up the clubs for four tricks, he would only have eight tricks. He needed the heart finesse. He ran the queen of hearts and it held. He played a heart to the nine and cashed the ace. Great luck! The suit was three-three with the king onside. He counted his tricks again. This time he came to nine tricks — two spades, four hearts, one diamond and two clubs. He could now take the club finesse for overtricks, but he knew partner had overbid. Most players would only have invited game and he had a minimum one no trump. His hand wouldn't accept the invitation. He was sure plus-600 would be a good score, so he cashed the ace and king of clubs to assure nine tricks. Great was the fall thereon. He scooped up two lucky overtricks for plus-660 and top on the board!

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GOREN BRIDGE

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GUSTO

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

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

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Pass	Pass	1♥	2♦
2♥	3♦	3♥	Db!
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: Ace of ♦

After South's one-heart opening, West overcalled two diamonds, certainly not everyone's choice. Many would start with double. Both South and West caught a fit with their partner, though values were scarce. North raised to two hearts and East bid three diamonds. South, with

exciting distribution and a partner who raised him, correctly continued with three hearts. West had a dilemma. What in the world was going on here? He held 23 points, almost all aces and kings, and everyone else was bidding!

West doubled with gusto. He would teach them a lesson they would never forget! South made 11 tricks on the ace of diamond's lead! Ace of spades and another spade would have held him to 10 tricks. Doubled!

It takes a club lead from North to beat six diamonds by East-West and it takes a spade lead to beat six no trump. Five diamonds and three no trump are unbeatable. West should have just pursued his offensive chances and ignored the enemy bidding.

There is an old saying in bridge: Respect your vulnerable opponents. West is busy memorizing this advice right now.

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Saturday, November 9, 2013

GOREN BRIDGE

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q 1 - East-West vulnerable, as North, you hold:

♠ J 9 8 6 2 ♥ 5 ♦ K Q J 9 ♣ Q 9 4

The bidding:

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

What is your call?

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

♠ A 7 ♥ 10 5 4 ♦ Q J 7 5 4 ♣ K 8 7

The bidding:

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

What action would you take?

Q 3 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ 9 8 ♥ A K 10 ♦ A 8 7 6 4 3 ♣ 6 2

The bidding:

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

What action would you take?

Q 4 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ 8 ♥ A J 6 ♦ A Q 9 6 5 4 3 2 ♣ Q

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Pass	Pass	?	

What is your opening bid?

Q 5 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ A K 10 9 8 2 ♥ J 7 ♦ A ♣ A J 10 9

The bidding:

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

How would you proceed?

Q 6 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ 7 2 ♥ K J 9 5 4 2 ♦ A 9 ♣ K 9 5

As dealer, what call would you make?

Look for answers on Monday.

(Tannah Hirsch and Bob Jones welcome readers' responses sent to tcaeditors@tribune.com.)

Sunday, November 10, 2013

GOREN BRIDGE

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BAD LUCK OR BAD DEFENSE?

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ 10 5 4

♥ 9 8 7 2

♦ 9 7 5 3

♣ J 2

WEST

♠ 8 7 2

♥ 10 3

♦ J 6 2

♣ A 9 8 6 3

EAST

♠ Void

♥ A Q J 5 4

♦ A K 10 8 4

♣ Q 7 5

SOUTH

♠ A K Q J 9 6 3

♥ K 6

♦ Q

♣ K 10 4

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♥

Some days you just can't win.

South quietly opened one spade and it went pass-pass to East. He carefully considered what action to take with his fine hand. He chose to double, rather than bid two hearts. No matter, whatever East chose, South briskly bid four spades. He wasn't to

be trifled with when he held a suit like that. East took umbrage at this aggression and doubled four spades. The battle was on!

West led the 10 of hearts. East won and tried to cash two top diamonds. South ruffed the second diamond, led a trump to dummy's 10 and then led the jack of clubs from dummy. East covered with the queen, South played the king and West won the ace. Whatever West now played, South had no trouble ruffing his club loser in dummy and claiming 10 tricks. Four spades doubled bid and made!

West was quick to share his thoughts. "Did you have to cover that jack of clubs? He was probably going to guess wrong. After all, you were the one that did all the bidding. Speaking of the bidding, did you have to bid with that rag? You could have just passed it out in one spade."

East has resolved to find a more understanding partner.

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GOREN BRIDGE

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

Q 1 - East-West vulnerable, as North, you hold:

♠ J 9 8 6 2 ♥ 5 ♦ K Q J 9 ♣ Q 9 4

The bidding:

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

What is your call?

A - Pass is tempting, but you are just too good. If partner has 16 or 17 points, you might have a game. Two diamonds is out, as that is forcing and we want to make a non-forcing bid. Choose between two no trump and three clubs. We prefer two no trump.

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

♠ A 7 ♥ 10 5 4 ♦ Q J 7 5 4 ♣ K 8 7

The bidding:

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

What action would you take?

A - Bid three diamonds. A maximum one no trump with a good diamond fit. Perfect!

Q 3 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ 9 8 ♥ A K 10 ♦ A 8 7 6 4 3 ♣ 6 2

The bidding:

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

What action would you take?

A - Should partner have a spade stopper, you likely have game. Partner denied a four-card major with his re-bid, so he is unlikely to raise a major now. Bid three hearts. Partner will bid three no trump with a spade control, and that is likely your best contract.

Q 4 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ 8 ♥ A J 6 ♦ A Q 9 6 5 4 3 2 ♣ Q

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Pass	Pass	?	?

What is your opening bid?

A - Were partner not a passed hand, we would open one diamond. We like to put maximum pressure on our opponents in this situation. Bid five diamonds!

Q 5 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ A K 10 9 8 2 ♥ J 7 ♦ A ♣ A J 10 9

The bidding:

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

How would you proceed?

A - Should partner's values be in diamonds, an aggressive bid now could work out poorly. Why go through life believing that a black cloud is over your head? Bid four spades!

Q 6 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ 7 2 ♥ K J 9 5 4 2 ♦ A 9 ♣ K 9 5

As dealer, what call would you make?

A - A decent six-card suit with 11 points, almost all prime, is worth at least as much as a balanced hand with 13 points. Open one heart!

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