

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH TANNAH HIRSCH & BOB JONES

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WISHING FOR TRUMP TRICKS

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

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

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

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♥	Pass	2♥	Dbl
4♥	Dbl	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Opening lead: Five of ♦

This hand is from a North American Championship played more than 10 years ago. South was Glenn Milgrim, of New York.

East won the opening lead and cashed a second diamond before shifting to his singleton nine of trumps. South ducked, and West had to duck also — it would be all over if he played the king.

South then led a spade to his king, cashed the ace, discarding a club and ruffed a spade on the board. Next came a diamond ruff back to his hand, followed by another spade ruff in dummy. South now began cashing dummy's clubs, declarer ruffing the third club low. West was forced to over-ruff and then had to lead a trump from his king-10 into declarer's ace-queen. Beautifully done!

Had East shifted to a spade at trick two, South would win the ace and lead a low trump toward dummy's jack. Again, West would have to duck and the same ending would be reached. A club shift by East would have tangled up declarer's entries and led to the contract's defeat, but that was not easy to spot.

West second-guessed himself for the penalty double. East's take-out double was a bit light, though acceptable, and he did provide two defensive tricks. He could hardly be counted on for more than that. West's wishful second trump trick could disappear in many ways.

(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, January 15, 2014

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THOUGHTFUL BID

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

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

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

The bidding:

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

Opening lead: Three of ♦

This hand is from the Venice Cup, the World Championship Women's Teams, contested in Bali, Indonesia last summer. South was Janice Seamon-Molson, of Florida, representing the USA.

North-South were employing transfers over one no trump, so North transferred to hearts and rebid three

no trump to offer South a choice of games. South had an excellent hand for hearts and chose the thoughtful bid of four clubs, in case North had some latent slam ambitions. Any side-suit bid over three no trump shows a strong raise in partner's major — South couldn't be looking for a new trump suit at this point. North had a hand which came to life when partner showed a good hand with a fit. The leap to six hearts was a reasonable shot.

South won the opening diamond lead and played a trump to her king. She led another trump toward dummy and made the safety play of inserting the seven when West played low! The heavy lifting was done and South had 12 tricks — four hearts, five spades, two diamonds and the ace of clubs.

In the replay, the Polish South bid four hearts over three no trump, and the slam was missed. Seamon-Molson's four-club bid created a big swing for the USA.

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Thursday, January 16, 2014

GOREN BRIDGE

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A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

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

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

The bidding:

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

*Limit raise (11-12 points)

Opening lead: Jack of ♥

"Strip-and-throw-in" and "end-play" are fancy names for a simple declarer play technique — elimination. Most eliminations are quite simple — they just require a little forethought by declarer.

South was delighted with the dummy and saw that the slam

depended on no more than East holding one of the two missing club honors — a 75 percent chance. He won the opening lead in hand with the ace, drew trumps ending in dummy and played a club to his 10. West won and continued hearts. South won dummy's king and played a club to his queen. Down one!

Declarer looked to his partner for sympathy at his poor luck, but sympathy was not forthcoming. "Why would you take a 75 percent play," said North, "when you had a 100 percent play available? Just eliminate the spades and hearts from both hands before you play a club to the 10. West will win his jack, but must present you with a twelfth trick by giving you either a ruff-sluff or playing a club into your ace-queen."

South was crestfallen. He realized that his partner was right. He immediately amended his New Year's resolution list, adding that he would never make this error again.

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Friday, January 17, 2014

GOREN BRIDGE

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PLAY OR DEFEND?

East-West vulnerable. West deals.

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

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

The bidding:

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

Opening lead: King of ♠

Study the hand above and decide — would you rather play or defend?

East overtook the opening lead with his ace and returned the suit. West won the queen and continued with the 10. South ruffed, cashed his ace of trumps and led his singleton club. West was ruined. Should he duck his ace, dummy's king would win and declarer could just draw

trumps and concede a diamond.

West played his ace, but was end-played! Another spade would give a ruff-sluff, allowing declarer to trump in dummy while pitching a diamond from hand, later discarding his other diamond on dummy's club king. A diamond from the king was no better, and a club wouldn't help either — East, who passed the opening bid, had already shown up with the ace of spades. He couldn't have another queen, so South would finesse the jack of clubs and discard two diamonds on the king and jack of clubs.

Despite this, we hope you didn't choose to play. The defense had options that would have defeated the contract. First, East could have shifted to a diamond after winning the spade ace. Secondly, West could have cashed his club ace before playing the spade 10. Neither play was obvious, but with hindsight, we vote to defend!

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Saturday, January 18, 2014

GOREN BRIDGE

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

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

♠ K Q ♠ Q J 9 ◇ Q 8 3 ♣ 9 7 5 4 3

With the opponents' silent, North opens one diamond. What call would you make?

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

♠ A K Q J 9 4 ♠ J ◇ K J 10 7 ♣ K 6

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♣	Pass	2♣	Pass
2◇	Pass	3♣	Pass
?			

What call would you make?

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

♠ K J 10 8 ♠ A K 10 9 5 2 ◇ 4 ♣ A 7

The bidding:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1♣	1♥	Dbl*	Pass
3♣	?		

*Negative — values with no clear bid.
What call would you make?

Q 4 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ A 8 3 ♠ K 10 3 2 ◇ A K 9 8 ♣ A 10

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1◇	Pass	1♥	Pass
?			

What call would you make?

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

♠ A 10 9 5 2 ♠ A 4 ◇ K J 5 ♣ K 10 4

As dealer, what call would you make?

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

♠ 7 ♠ K 6 5 3 ◇ A K 9 8 ♣ K 10 9 5

Right-hand opponent deals and opens one diamond. What call would you make?

Look for answers on Monday.

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

Sunday, January 19, 2014

GOREN BRIDGE

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POOR HAND EVALUATION

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

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

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1◇	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Rdbl	1♥	2◇	2♥
4◇	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♡

Take a look at the North hand — have you ever seen a worse bridge hand? Despite a total lack of values, North considered his four-card support to be worth something, and he offered a very brave raise at his second turn. South had full values for

his jump to the four-level, perhaps even more, but North couldn't find another bid.

South won the opening heart lead and drew trumps, cashing the ace and king, before conceding a heart. Declarer ruffed the club shift carefully with the seven of diamonds and ruffed a heart in dummy. Next came a winning spade finesse, followed by the five of trumps to dummy's six. Another spade finesse, combined with the 3-3 split, resulted in 12 tricks for North-South.

South had a reputation at the club for being an unkind partner, often finding fault where there was no fault to be found. He looked up at North and said, "You didn't bid enough!" North left the club immediately to apply for a handgun permit. He offered this hand in support of his application. The permit was quickly approved.

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GOREN BRIDGE

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

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

♦ K Q \diamond **Q J 9** \diamond **Q 8 3 ♣ 9 7 5 4 3**

With the opponents' silent, North opens one diamond. What call would you make?

A - You have the requisite 10 points and five-card suit for a two-club bid, but that strikes us as a poor choice with such a weak suit. We prefer one no trump.

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

♦ A K Q J 9 4 \diamond **J** \diamond **K J 10 7 ♣ K 6**

The bidding:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♣ Pass **2♣** Pass **Pass**
2◊ Pass **3♣** Pass

What call would you make?

A - A suit of this quality doesn't need support from partner. Bid four no trump, Blackwood, and then bid the appropriate number of spades — five spades if he shows one ace and six spades if he shows two. Should he have no aces, submit your request for the title of "Unluckiest Man in the World." There is a long waiting list.

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

♦ K J 10 8 \diamond **A K 10 9 5 2** \diamond **4 ♣ A 7**

The bidding:

EAST **SOUTH** WEST NORTH
1♣ \diamond **1◊** Dbl* **Pass**
3♣ ?

***Negative — values with no clear bid.**
What call would you make?

A - We hate getting pushed around like this, but this hand has too much potential to sell out just yet. Bid three hearts.

Q 4 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♦ A 8 3 \diamond **K 10 3 2** \diamond **A K 9 8 ♣ A 10**

The bidding:

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

What call would you make?

A - This hand, with all its' values in prime cards, can easily be valued at 20 points. Bid four hearts.

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

♦ A 10 9 5 2 \diamond **A 4** \diamond **K J 5 ♣ K 10 4**

As dealer, what call would you make?

A - There has been much discussion over the years about opening one no trump with a five-card major. There are plusses and minuses both ways, but there are no re-bids to show 15-17 points. You only have one chance to show a balanced hand in that range. We prefer one no trump.

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

♦ 7 \diamond **K 6 5 3** \diamond **A K 9 8 ♣ K 10 9 5**

Right-hand opponent deals and opens one diamond. What call would you make?

A - This would be a mandatory opening bid, but it is usually right to pass with hands like this after an opponent opens. No five-card suit and no spade support — pass.

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