

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH TANNAH HIRSCH & BOB JONES

©2013 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

TIMID BID

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
 ♠ 10 9 5 4
 ♥ K Q J 8 6
 ♦ Q
 ♣ 8 5 2

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

SOUTH
 ♠ K 7 3
 ♥ A 9 7 5
 ♦ A 8
 ♣ A K Q 6

The bidding:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
Pass	2NT	3♦	Dbl
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: Seven of ♣

North's double was negative, for take-out and not penalties. South embarked on a simple line of play. He won the opening lead and drew trumps in three rounds, ending in hand. He next cashed the ace and ruffed his other diamond in dummy, cashed two more high clubs and ruffed his last club with dummy's remaining trump. He scored four trump tricks in the South hand, two

more trumps ruffing in the North hand, and his four top tricks in the minors. This technique, where you ruff in the long trump hand until it has fewer trumps than the short trump hand, is known as a "dummy reversal."

West was quite timid in only bidding three diamonds. Competing to the five-level, at favorable vulnerability, would be championed by many. He will be doubled of course, but it will be a good sacrifice with a point to the play. West will quickly gain the lead by ruffing and he should look at East's spades as a potential entry, not a potential finesse. He should lead a small spade to the queen, losing to South's king, ruff the next trick and then play a spade to the jack. He now has an entry to make a diamond play. He should lead a diamond from dummy and make his best guess when South plays low. Minus 300 if he guesses right, minus 500 should he get it wrong, but he triumphs over their vulnerable game either way.

(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.)

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH TANNAH HIRSCH & BOB JONES

©2013 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

ELEGANT DISCARD

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

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

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

SOUTH
 ♠ A
 ♥ Void
 ♦ 10 9 6 3
 ♣ A K 10 9 8 7 6 4

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: Eight of ♦

South fell in love with his hand and bid it very aggressively — 13 tricks are easy on any lead but a diamond. Declarer wins in hand, draws trump in two rounds, then unblocks the ace

of spades. He next crosses to dummy with the ace of diamonds to discard his remaining diamonds on the ace of hearts and king and queen of spades.

The situation is completely different after a diamond lead. Dummy's only entry is knocked out while the spades are still blocked. It looks like the lucky lie of the trump suit will allow declarer to hold his losses to two diamond tricks. Can you see how South made six after a diamond lead?

The solution is simple and elegant. South won the ace of diamonds and then cashed the ace of hearts, discarding the ace of spades! This excellent play allowed South to cash dummy's king and queen of spades, discarding two diamonds. He still had to lose one diamond eventually, but the lucky fall of the trumps allowed him to make his slam. Well played!

(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.)

Thursday, November 21, 2013

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH TANNAH HIRSCH & BOB JONES

©2013 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

SUPREME CONFIDENCE

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
 ♠ A K Q 9
 ♥ K 7 4
 ♦ 10
 ♣ A J 9 5 2

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

SOUTH
 ♠ J 10 7 5 2
 ♥ 9 6
 ♦ 6 4 2
 ♣ K 10 3

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♣	1♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	3♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♦

North had a tough decision to make at his last turn; should he call it a day and pass or try to “gild the lily” by raising? He knew they were getting a diamond lead rather than a heart through his king, so a club fragment from partner might be enough to set up the clubs and bring home 10 tricks. This was a very close

decision and North took the aggressive view. Could South make it?

West led the jack of diamonds and East allowed it to hold. West made the obvious shift to the queen of hearts. Declarer ducked this, hoping for a singleton or doubleton ace in the East hand. No luck. South ruffed the third round of hearts, drew trumps in two rounds, and had to decide how to tackle the club suit.

A little basic counting was all that was needed. West had led the jack of diamonds. The 10 of diamonds was in dummy. Most players would lead small from three to the jack, so he was probably leading high from a doubleton. Declarer could place East with seven diamonds. East had followed suit to three hearts and two spades, so therefore could have no more than one club. Declarer cashed the king of clubs, in case that singleton was the queen, and then ran the 10 of clubs with supreme confidence — something that only comes with good card counting.

(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.)

Friday, November 22, 2013

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH TANNAH HIRSCH & BOB JONES

©2013 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

BE WARY OF GIFTS

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

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

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

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

The bidding:

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

Opening lead: Five of ♠

Many makeable contracts are defeated due to a careless play by declarer at trick one.

South was delighted with the ‘free finesse’ presented by the opening lead and let it run to his jack. He

cashed the king of spades in dummy before playing on clubs. When East was able to hold up his ace of clubs until the third round, South had no way to come to nine tricks. Down one was the best he could do. Had he not cashed the king of spades early, it would have been down two.

This result was a bit unlucky, but that spade lead was a temptation that should have been resisted. South should have played the king from dummy at trick one. He could then knock out the ace of clubs no matter how long it took and make an easy ten tricks! The ace of spades would remain as an entry to his hand.

South has sworn a solemn oath to pause at least ten seconds before playing from dummy at trick one. This is a good plan for everyone. Errors like this can be easily avoided.

(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.)

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH TANNAH HIRSCH & BOB JONES

©2013 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

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

♠ A Q ♥ K 9 ♦ A K 10 8 6 3 ♣ A Q 7

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
?			

What is your re-bid?

Q 2 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ K 9 3 2 ♥ 6 3 ♦ A 10 5 ♣ Q 10 9 2

The bidding:

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

What call would you choose?

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

♠ Void ♥ J ♦ A K Q J 10 6 4 2 ♣ A J 9 4

The bidding:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	Pass	1♥	?

What action would you take?

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

♠ K 10 8 ♥ J 9 3 ♦ K Q 10 6 3 2 ♣ 5

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
?			

What call would you make?

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

♠ K 9 8 7 ♥ 8 4 3 ♦ 3 2 ♣ A K J 4

The bidding:

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

What is your choice?

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

♠ 8 5 ♥ K J 6 2 ♦ K 7 4 ♣ K 8 5 3

The bidding:

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

What action would you choose?

Look for answers on Monday.

(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.)

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH TANNAH HIRSCH & BOB JONES

©2013 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

AN UNLIKELY SLAM

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ 9 7 3
♥ 9 7 6
♦ A Q 10 6
♣ A K 10

WEST

♠ 8 6 5 2
♥ 5
♦ K J 5 4 3
♣ Q J 6

EAST

♠ Q J 4
♥ 10 8 4 3 2
♦ 9 7
♣ 8 4 2

SOUTH

♠ A K 10
♥ A K Q J
♦ 8 2
♣ 9 7 5 3

The bidding:

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

Opening lead: Queen of ♣

North must have had a low spade mixed in with his hearts! Most would re-bid one no trump with this hand. The raise lit a fire under South, who proceeded a bit too eagerly to slam. Could he make it?

The opening lead was encouraging as the jack could surely be finessed later. If the trumps behaved, he had a reasonable chance. South won the ace of clubs in dummy and cashed

two rounds of trumps, which did not behave. Trouble! Next he tried a club to the 10 and cashed the club king. Good news. The 3-3 break made his small club in hand good.

There was a double finesse available in spades, but even if that succeeded, he would still need a diamond finesse. Better to go after diamonds. Declarer crossed to his hand with a trump and led a diamond to the 10 when West followed low. Success! Next came a spade back to hand to play a diamond toward the queen. When that won, he was home. He cashed the ace of diamonds. East ruffed while South discarded his remaining spade. He won the spade shift and was down to just a high trump and a good club. He drew the remaining trump and romped home. Six hearts bid and made!

South was quite pleased with himself for the mini-miracle he just performed in the play, but he had to listen to his partner taking the credit. North said, "Partner, if I had bid one no trump instead of raising hearts, we would never have reached the slam."

(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.)

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH **TANNAH HIRSCH & BOB JONES**

©2013 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

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

♠ A Q ♥ K 9 ♦ A K 10 8 6 3 ♣ A Q 7

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
?			

What is your re-bid?

A - Re-bidding three diamonds may cause trouble. Partner is forced to bid and we won't know what any of his bids mean or what strength he has. This is an essentially balanced hand. Bid two no trump.

Q 2 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ K 9 3 2 ♥ 6 3 ♦ A 10 5 ♣ Q 10 9 2

The bidding:

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

What call would you choose?

A - Two clubs might be a better contract, but no trump scores more. You have the majority of high cards so the play should be reasonable right where you are. Pass.

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

♠ Void ♥ J ♦ A K Q J 10 6 4 2 ♣ A J 9 4

The bidding:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	Pass	1♥	?

What action would you take?

A - Let's face it — if the opponents' bid to four of a major we are not going to let them play there. Why give them any room to sort out their issues. Partner might have the magic cards that would make slam a good proposition for us, but it is unlikely that we can find out what we need to know. Bid five diamonds.

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

♠ K 10 8 ♥ J 9 3 ♦ K Q 10 6 3 2 ♣ 5

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
?			

What call would you make?

A - Partner's bid is an inquiry asking you if you have a minimum or maximum weak two-bid. You would re-bid your suit with a minimum or show a side-suit feature with a maximum. This hand is a maximum. Bid three spades.

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

♠ K 9 8 7 ♥ 8 4 3 ♦ 3 2 ♣ A K J 4

The bidding:

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

What is your choice?

A - You have a sub-minimum hand that you only opened because you were in third seat. Normally, you pass as soon as possible when you open these hands. Regardless, you can't sell out to two diamonds with such a good fit for partner. Bid two spades.

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

♠ 8 5 ♥ K J 6 2 ♦ K 7 4 ♣ K 8 5 3

The bidding:

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

What action would you choose?

A - Should you play that a cuebid shows 10-plus points and a fit, this is the perfect hand to use it. Failing that, you must still raise. Don't worry about a potential heart fit. Bid three diamonds.

(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 tcaditors@tribune.com.)