

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH TANNAH HIRSCH & BOB JONES

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LOGIC

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

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

The bidding:

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

Opening lead: Jack of ♣

The auction was routine. South knew his partner wouldn't use Stayman without a four-card major. When North showed no interest in hearts, he surely had spades.

South won the opening lead in hand and took a moment. The key suit was hearts. A heart to the king would be the winning play when East held the ace, but it could lead to three

heart losers should West hold that card. South had a better plan. Declarer realized that he could not handle a bad break in trumps — he had too much to do. He first cashed the queen of spades followed by a low spade to dummy's ace. Everyone followed — so far so good.

Next declarer led dummy's 10 of hearts, intending to let it run if East played low. Should this lose to the jack or queen, he would later go back to dummy and play a heart to his nine, assuring the contract whenever East started with either the jack, the queen or both. East covered the 10 with the jack and South was home. He played the king, losing to the ace.

West played another club, South winning in hand. Next came a spade to dummy's king, drawing the last trump and the queen of clubs discarding a low diamond. The only thing left to do was to force out the queen of hearts and concede a diamond. South had successfully developed a heart trick and could ruff his last heart in dummy. Well done!

(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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SLAM BIDDING IS AN ART

Both vulnerable. South deals.

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

The bidding:

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

Opening lead: Queen of ♦

Slam bidding is the last frontier for many players. It can be very difficult to determine exactly when there are 12 tricks available for your side, and excellent hand evaluation is often required. We occasionally see an

auction that should result in prizes for both partners. Sometimes that's a booby prize, but grand awards for the North-South pair today.

South jump-shifted at his second turn to show game-forcing values, then re-bid his hearts. North bid three no trump in desperation and South removed it to four hearts, feeling like he had done an excellent job of describing his hand — a powerful hand with primary hearts, secondary clubs and too distributional to play in three no trump. Good job!

North looked at his hand at this point in the auction and realized what treasures he held. Two pure aces and a queen that looked like it was made of gold! He could hardly pass four hearts and still sleep at night. He raised to five hearts and South didn't need to be asked twice.

A small child could make a slam on this hand. The challenge was to bid it. Kudos to North-South.

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GOOD IDEA, BAD EXECUTION

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

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

The bidding:

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

Opening lead: Two of ♠

South won the opening lead in hand with the king and cashed the ace and king of trumps. Next came the queen of diamonds to knock out the ace. East won the ace and continued with the jack of spades. Declarer won the ace in dummy and cashed both the king and jack of diamonds, discarding a club from hand, and then led a spade to his queen.

South had now eliminated both

pointed suits from his hand and dummy. Good technique! Next came a low club toward dummy. West inserted the eight, dummy the queen losing to East's king. East now led a low club and South had a difficult guess to make. He decided to play low from his hand and thus lost the contract. West's nine forced dummy's ace and South still had an unavoidable club loser to go with the outstanding trump.

South was a bit unlucky, but he could have done better. Did you spot his error? After eliminating the red suits, declarer should have led a trump, not caring who won. West wins his queen and must play a club to avoid giving declarer a ruff-sluff. South would play low from dummy, East would win the jack, but would now be endplayed — he would have to play a club or give a ruff-sluff!

Note that West could have defeated this contract with an opening club lead. That was too much to expect after North had opened the bidding in that suit.

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AGGRESSIVE BIDDING, BETTER PLAY

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

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

The bidding:

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

*Heart raise, 10-plus points

Opening lead: King of ♠

South's bidding was certainly aggressive. Anyone who bids like this had better be able to take their tricks. Let's watch South at work.

East won the opening lead force. A trump shift would surely cost the defense a trick and a diamond shift might also prove expensive on a different layout. East chose a low club at trick two — this wouldn't give anything away that declarer couldn't get on his own. It

ran to West's queen and dummy's ace. Next came the ace of diamonds and a diamond ruff, followed by the king of clubs and a club to dummy's jack. Another diamond ruff left declarer in his hand with the ace, king and nine of trumps opposite dummy's queen, eight and four. East still had all five of his trumps remaining.

South now exited with a low spade to West's 10. West continued with the queen of spades and East was in trouble. He had discarded his remaining diamond on the 10 of spades and was down to all trumps. He ruffed partner's queen of spades and exited with the jack of hearts. South was careful to win this in his own hand with the ace and then ruffed his last spade with dummy's queen of trumps as East under-ruffed helplessly.

In the two-card ending with the lead in dummy, declarer had the king-nine of trumps sitting over East's 10-six and could not be prevented from winning the last two tricks and bringing home his ambitious contract. Well done!

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

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

♠ Q 7 3 ♥ K 10 8 7 ♦ A J 8 ♣ A J 3

The bidding:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1♠	?		

What call would you make?

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

♠ J ♥ A K Q 9 ♦ 9 6 3 2 ♣ A 8 5 3

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			

What call would you make?

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

♠ Q 10 ♥ Q 3 2 ♦ A Q J 8 7 4 ♣ 9 2

As dealer, what call would you make?

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

♠ 10 8 3 ♥ A K Q ♦ K 9 8 5 2 ♣ 9 4

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	1♠	Dbl*	Pass
?			

*Negative — values with nothing clear to bid, likely with length in the unbid suits.

What call would you make?

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

♠ K 9 4 ♥ 10 4 ♦ Q J ♣ A K Q J 4 2

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
3♦	Pass	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	?	

What call would you make?

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

♠ Q 5 3 ♥ K Q 9 3 ♦ 9 2 ♣ K 8 7 5

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	3♣	?	

What call would you make?

Look for answers on Monday.

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OOOPS!

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ A 4 3
♥ Q 7 3 2
♦ 7 4 3
♣ K 7 2

WEST

♠ 9 8 6
♥ A J 9 6
♦ J 10 2
♣ Q 6 5

EAST

♠ 10 7 2
♥ 8 4
♦ A K Q 8 6
♣ 10 8 3

SOUTH

♠ K Q J 5
♥ K 10 5
♦ 9 5
♣ A J 9 4

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
Pass	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: Six of ♥

South's incredible opening bid of three no trump, opposite a passed hand, may look like the biggest overbid of all time — but there is a story behind it.

South actually opened the bidding with one club, but before any other player had called. Ooops! This out-of-turn opening meant that, according to law, North was barred from the auction and was required to pass at every turn. When the bidding

got to South, his partner wasn't really a passed hand — his pass had been forced. South had to guess what to do. He mustered up his courage and tried the very brave three no trump.

The contract was terrible, but the wild auction had the effect of putting West on lead with no clue as to the winning diamond lead. West led the perfectly reasonable low heart and South was in the game! The lead ran around to declarer's 10 and South quickly cashed four spade tricks. On the last spade, West indicated some uncertainty about his discard. South reasoned that West's unease indicated that he held something in each remaining suit.

Declarer backed his table feel with his nerve and led the jack of clubs from hand. West chose not to cover and the jack held the trick! Had West covered the jack with the queen, South would have won the king and led another club, inserting his nine when East played low. Either way, combined with the 3-3 club split, South had his nine tricks and a magical result.

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

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

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

The bidding:

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
1♠	?		

What call would you make?

A - A one no trump overcall should be slightly stronger than a one no trump opener. This hand, with 4-3-3-3 distribution, doesn't quite make the grade. Pass. Should you overcall one no trump and hear a double from West, how would you feel? Does "Abandon Hope" come to mind? Should you feel compelled to bid, a take-out double is much better than one no trump.

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

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

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass

What call would you make?

A - Re-bidding two clubs should show at least nine cards in the minors. It is good that your singleton spade is an honor, but it doesn't really matter. Bid one no trump.

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

♠ **Q 10** ♥ **Q 3 2** ♦ **A Q J 8 7 4** ♣ **9 2**

As dealer, what call would you make?

A - The side values are decidedly puny, but the excellent six-card suit makes this hand worth 12-13 points. Open one diamond. Second choice: two diamonds. Passing is way too timid.

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

♠ **10 8 3** ♥ **A K Q** ♦ **K 9 8 5 2** ♣ **9 4**

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♦	1♠	Db! *	Pass

*Negative — values with nothing clear to bid, likely with length in the unbid suits.

What call would you make?

A - The choice is between re-bidding your anemic diamond suit or bidding your three-card heart suit. Two hearts might be right on a good day, but most days it will ruin your reputation at the club. Bid two diamonds.

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

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

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
3♦	Pass	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	?	

What call would you make?

A - If West can take nine tricks on this hand, bless him! He can be our teammate forever. Double!

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

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

The bidding:

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

What call would you make?

A - Double! This double is optional as our strength is limited, and partner will pull it with a distributional hand and four hearts or six diamonds when he has club shortness. Should partner pass, this penalty will line our pockets for a week or two.

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