

Tuesday, December 17, 2013

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH TANNAH HIRSCH & BOB JONES

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### HUGE SWING

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

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

  

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

  

SOUTH	
♠ 9 5	
♥ 4 3	
♦ 9 8 6 5	
♣ A Q 10 9 3	

The bidding:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1♠	2♠	4♠	5♣
5♣	6♦	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: Ace of ♦

This hand is from the recent World Championship Women's Teams in Bali, Indonesia. North's two spade bid was the Michaels convention, showing five or more hearts plus a five-card minor. South's five-club bid was "pass or correct" — North would pass if her minor were clubs or "correct" to five diamonds should

that be her minor.

North was Benedicte Cronier, of France, and her final bid was certainly a gamble. Partner's minor-suit quality might have been exactly the opposite, leaving both five spades and six clubs as hopeless contracts.

South was Sylvie Willard, of France, and she reasoned that East's final double was likely based upon holding the king of trumps, as that card would usually be found in the North hand on this auction. Accordingly, she ruffed the opening diamond lead and immediately took the trump finesse. So far so good! Next came the ace of clubs, drawing trumps, and then the heart finesse. Success! She conceded a spade to the defense and claimed her slam.

At the other table, the French East-West pair bought the contract in five spades doubled. That contract could not be defeated. This resulted in an enormous swing for the French, who won their match easily.

(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](mailto:tcaeditors@tribune.com).)

Wednesday, December 18, 2013

## GOREN BRIDGE

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### CLEVER PLAY?

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

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

  

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

  

SOUTH	
♠ A Q 10 9 8 2	
♥ 6 5 3	
♦ Void	
♣ 8 6 4 3	

The bidding:

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

Opening lead: Four of ♥

East won the opening heart lead and continued with the queen. Next came a diamond, which declarer won in dummy while discarding his remaining heart. South, who knew where all the spades were from the auction, now cleverly ran the six of spades. Declarer next led the jack of spades from dummy, letting it run when East played low. One more spade finesse followed by the ace took care of the trumps. South now led a club. West hopped up with his ace and played a diamond. South ruffed and cashed dummy's two high

clubs. When that suit split 3-3, he had his contract. He ruffed a diamond back to his hand and played the long club for 10 tricks.

Did you spot any errors? There were plenty.

East should have played a third round of hearts, forcing dummy to ruff and assuring himself of a trump trick. Then, West should have played low on the first club, allowing dummy's king to win. Declarer would have to ruff a diamond back to his hand to lead a second club. West plays his ace at this point and then another diamond, forcing South to ruff with his last trump. Now when South cashes the good club in dummy, he has no way back to his hand to enjoy the long club.

South could always have made his contract after the diamond play at trick three. He should have overtaken dummy's six of spades with the eight and led a club to dummy's king. Assuming West ducks, South draws trumps as before and leads a second club. Should West hop up with the ace and play a diamond, South can ruff but still has a trump remaining. Now, when he cashes the good club in dummy, he can ruff back to his hand and play the long club. Making four!

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Thursday, December 19, 2013

## GOREN BRIDGE

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### DEFENSE IS DIFFICULT!

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

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

  

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

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: King of ♣

Holding the worst distribution in bridge, 4-3-3-3, North made the sober decision to raise his partner only to the two-level. When South made a game try, North could not make another conservative decision with that hand, so he jumped to four hearts.

West held the opening lead and continued with a club at trick two. South ruffed and immediately played the ace of diamonds and another diamond. East won and shifted to a

trump, but it was too late. South won and played another diamond. East won this and played another trump, which declarer won in hand to ruff his last diamond with dummy's queen of trumps. South ruffed a club back to his hand, drew the remaining trumps and claimed the rest.

This contract might have been defeated had West shifted to his singleton trump at trick two. East could then continue trumps each time he obtained the lead in diamonds and declarer would be left with an unavoidable third loser in that suit. That would leave him with four losers — one club and three diamonds — and down one in his contract.

A great declarer could actually make this hand on a trump shift by West, but it would require one of the great dummy reversals of all time. We leave it to advanced readers to work out the details.

West cannot really be faulted for not finding the best shift. He was looking at a 4-3-3-3 dummy. How could he possibly know that the best defense was to cut down dummy's ruffing power?

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Friday, December 20, 2013

## GOREN BRIDGE

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### LIGHTNER STRIKES!

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

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

  

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

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♠	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♠	Pass	7♠	Dbl
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: Four of ♦

This hand is from the recent World Championship Senior Teams in Bali, Indonesia. Scotland was playing in the World Championships for the first time under their own flag.

North believed that South's three-spade re-bid showed a solid suit, which explains the bold leap to seven spades. East made a "Lightner Double," asking for an unusual lead. East was hoping to ruff a club at trick one. The problem is that this double

strongly suggests a lead in dummy's first-bid suit. Neither hearts nor clubs were bid by the opponents, so West led a diamond.

South, Willie Coyle of Scotland, ruffed this lead in hand and began drawing trumps. When the jack appeared, he was in good shape. South finished drawing trumps, discarding two low clubs and a diamond from dummy, then played a club to dummy's ace. Next came the ace and king of diamonds. South could have handled a 4-2 split, but the actual 3-3 split allowed Coyle to claim his grand slam.

East should not have doubled. This double led to the diamond lead. Had he passed instead, he would have had a reasonable chance to get the club lead he wanted.

In the re-play, Coyle's opponents reached six clubs. We won't provide the details, but declarer managed to go one down in this contract, giving Scotland a huge swing on this hand. They were able to beat the host country, Indonesia, by a small margin.

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Saturday, December 21, 2013

## GOREN BRIDGE

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### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

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

**♦J 9 7 ♠ A Q 3 2 ♦ 7 5 4 2 ♣ K 3**

The bidding:

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
1♦ 1♠ INT ?

What call would you make?

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

**♦K 9 8 6 ♠ Void ♦ A 6 5 3 2 ♣ K 8 7 2**

With the opponents silent, partner opens one no trump. How would you proceed?

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

**♦A 10 ♠ 9 7 5 ♦ J 10 6 2 ♣ A K Q J**

The bidding:

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
2♦ Pass Pass ?

What call would you make?

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

**♦J 3 ♠ A 7 5 ♦ A Q J 3 2 ♣ A 10 5**

Your right-hand opponent opens one spade. What call would you make?

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

**♦K 8 7 ♠ A Q 5 4 3 ♦ 7 2 ♣ Q 9 2**

The bidding:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST  
Pass Pass ?

What call would you make?

**Q 6** - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

**♦6 3 ♠ Q 8 ♦ 8 7 5 ♣ A K J 10 8 2**

As dealer, what call would you make?

*Look for answers on Monday.*

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Sunday, December 22, 2013

## GOREN BRIDGE

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### LEAD DIRECTING?

East-West vulnerable. South deals.

#### NORTH

♠ 10 8 7  
♥ 10 8 4  
♦ 10 6 3  
♣ K 8 6 4

#### WEST

♠ K 5  
♥ A J 6 2  
♦ A J 8 2  
♣ A 7 3

#### EAST

♠ A Q 6 4 2  
♥ 9  
♦ K 7 5  
♣ J 10 9 2

#### SOUTH

♠ J 9 3  
♥ K Q 7 5 3  
♦ Q 9 4  
♣ Q 5

The bidding:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
Pass 1♣\* Pass 1♦\*\*  
Dbl Rdbl Pass Pass  
1NT Dbl Pass Pass  
Pass

\*Artificial, 15 plus points

\*\*Artificial, 10 plus points

Opening lead: Two of ♦

Many players like to make "lead-directing" doubles of artificial bids to suggest a lead in that suit should partner be on lead. Under the laws of bridge, however, any double is a penalty double until someone takes it out. Before a player makes a "lead-directing" double, he must be sure he has enough length and strength in the suit to prevent his opponents from making the contract, should they elect to play it there.

Today's hand comes from an expert game, hence the high-tech auction. South, one of the best players in the world, made a "lead-directing" double of the artificial one-heart response. West's re-double said he wanted to play it right there and when it got back to South, he knew he was in trouble. His one no trump bid was a desperate attempt to save himself, to no avail.

The defense started with four diamond tricks, East discarding the two of clubs on the last diamond. West shifted to the king of spades. The defense now ran their five spade tricks, West discarding three hearts. The jack of clubs shift from East now held South to one trick. The contract was down six for a 1,400 point penalty! Had East been allowed to play the hand in one heart re-doubled, he could not have been prevented from scoring three spades, three diamonds, two hearts and one club. South actually saved a few points by running to one no trump!

"It was just a lead-directing double," said South to his partner, a bit sheepishly. "I wasn't on lead," replied North, in the type of calm voice only the furious can summon up.

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# GOREN BRIDGE

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## WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

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

**♦ J 9 7** ♠ A Q 3 2 ♦ 7 5 4 2 ♣ K 3

The bidding:  
**WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH**  
 1♦ 1♣

What call would you make?

**A** - Should you play that a cue-bid of the enemy suit shows 10 or more points and a fit for partner, bid two diamonds. Otherwise, bid two spades.

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

**♦ K 9 8 6** ♦ Void ♠ A 6 5 3 2 ♣ K 8 7 2

With the opponents silent, partner opens one no trump. How would you proceed?

**A** - Bid two clubs, Stayman. On a good day, you'll locate a spade fit. Should partner respond two hearts, you can bid three no trump next. Should the response be two diamonds, denying a major and indicating that the opponents have 10 or more hearts, we would not gamble on three no trump. Bid three diamonds and pass three no trump should partner bid it.

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

**♦ A 10** ♠ 9 7 5 ♦ J 10 6 2 ♣ A K Q J

The bidding:  
**WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH**  
 2♦ Pass ?

What call would you make?

**A** - Double is out with only two spades. Two no trump is out with no heart stopper. What choices are left? Only pass and three clubs. We like three clubs.

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

**♦ J 3** ♠ A 7 5 ♦ A Q J 3 2 ♣ A 10 5

Your right-hand opponent opens one spade. What call would you make?

**A** - Bid two diamonds. Should the opponents compete to two spades, you can double at your next turn, showing support for the other suits, as well as your five diamonds. You are not strong enough to double first and then bid diamonds later.

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

**♦ K 8 7** ♠ A Q 5 4 3 ♦ 7 2 ♣ Q 9 2

The bidding:  
**WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH**  
 Pass ?

What call would you make?

**A** - Bid one heart. You should open a bit lighter in third seat in case partner passed a hand like this in first seat. You might miss a valuable partial if you pass.

**Q 6** - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

**♦ 6 3** ♠ Q 8 ♦ 8 7 5 ♣ A K J 10 8 2

**As dealer, what call would you make?**

**♦ A 10** ♠ 9 7 5 ♦ J 10 6 2 ♣ A K Q J

The bidding:  
**WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH**  
 2♦ Pass ?

What call would you make?

**A** - Bid three clubs. You cannot make an opening weak two-bid in clubs, so the opening three-bid in clubs must include some hands with only a six-card suit. A really good suit like this is perfect.

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