

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH TANNAH HIRSCH & BOB JONES

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MAKE THEM DO IT!

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

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

The bidding:

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

***Invitational raise with at least four trumps**

Opening lead: Five of ♦

There are many card combinations that are easier for declarer to handle if the opponents open up the suit for him. Good defenders will not do this happily, so declarer must resort to force to compel the defense to help him.

The four-club and four-diamond bids were both control-showing cue-bids. South used Blackwood and bid slam when he learned that North had

two aces. Declarer won the opening diamond lead in dummy and drew trumps in two rounds. Next came three rounds of hearts, dummy shedding a diamond on the last heart.

Declarer had now eliminated hearts from both his hand and dummy's, and could exit with his last diamond, eliminating that suit as well. The defender that wins this trick must either break the club suit or yield a ruff-sluff. Force has been used! The ruff-sluff immediately gives away the contract, so the defense will open up the club suit. Declarer can prevail by playing for split club honors.

Best defense is for East to win the second diamond and shift to the queen of clubs, hoping declarer will also play him for the jack. Declarer should not be fooled and should always play for split honors. Why? The defenders could have won the diamond in either hand. Had East held both club honors, West would have won the second diamond in order to open up the clubs safely from his side. Declarer would have no winning play if that were the case, and the slam would be defeated.

(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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TOMMY AT THE WHEEL

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

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

The bidding:

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

***Negative, values with no clear bid**

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

North felt that he was too strong for a simple raise to three diamonds. He decided to risk a negative double despite holding only three hearts. This double usually shows four or more cards in the unbid major. South was Trump Coup Tommy, who bid four hearts expecting better heart support.

East high-looked on the first two rounds of spades, compelling West to continue with a third round of the suit. Tommy ruffed low in dummy and discarded a low club from hand.

Tommy noted that East had asked for a spade continuation despite holding three spades. The reason was obvious — he wanted to weaken declarer's trump holding. Tommy could handle neither a 5-1 split in trumps, nor a 4-2 split if East had all three missing honors, but Tommy saw a way home if East's trumps only included two of those honors.

Tommy crossed to his hand with the ace of clubs and led a trump, inserting dummy's eight when West played low. East won the jack and returned the suit to the board's bare king, Tommy noting the fall of West's 10. He now cashed the ace and king of diamonds, followed by the king of clubs, felling his own queen. Next came high clubs from the dummy. Should East ruff at any point, Tommy would over-ruff, draw the remaining trump, and claim the balance with minor-suit winners. East postponed the inevitable as long as possible, but by the two-card ending, both East and South were down to trumps only. The lead was still in dummy, so South's ace-nine captured East's queen-six and Tommy scored up his game.

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THE EASY ROAD

Both vulnerable. West deals.

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

The bidding:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
3♥	Dbl	Pass	4♠
Pass	5♥	Pass	6♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: King of ♥

North was too good to pass South's four-spade bid and chose five hearts as a general slam try. South had enough to accept. Good bidding if they make it. Can they?

South won the opening heart lead in dummy, ruffed a heart in hand, and drew trumps in two rounds. Dummy's last heart was ruffed, the ace of diamonds was cashed,

followed by all three of dummy's top clubs, stripping both hands of clubs and hearts. Next came a diamond to his queen, a play that would have succeeded had the king of diamonds been in the East hand or if West had a doubleton king. West, after winning his king, would have to give a ruff-sluff for the 12th trick.

South was quite unlucky to find West with both the diamond king and a third card in that suit. Study the hand for a moment. Was South just unlucky, or did he misplay?

Knowing that West had a seven-card heart suit gave South an easy road to 12 tricks. He should not have ruffed the last heart in dummy nor should he have cashed the ace of diamonds. Instead, simply draw trumps, ruff one heart, and cash the three high clubs. Now when declarer leads dummy's last heart, he discards a low diamond from hand and West is end-played! West must give a ruff-sluff or play a diamond into South's ace-queen. The location of the diamond king was not relevant.

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GOREN BRIDGE

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SUBTERFUGE!

Both vulnerable. South deals.

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

The bidding:

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

Opening lead: Three of ♣

This hand is from the Venice Cup Women's World Team Championship, contested last summer in Bali, Indonesia. South was Kerri Sanborn of New York, one of the world's best players, representing the USA.

Sanborn's hand warranted a game bid on its own. She bid three hearts in case partner had long hearts and only three spades — a heart contract would play better. North thought enough of her assets to jump to game,

but South would have bid on in any event.

West's natural opening lead of the king of diamonds would have scuttled the contract quickly — East overtakes, returns the suit for a ruff, and West gets a late trump trick. But West had some unwanted help in selecting his lead as East had overcalled in clubs. A club lead it was and South had a chance.

South won the club ace and cashed the ace and king of trumps, hoping for the queen to fall. No luck. The contract was still safe if West had to follow to three hearts. A diamond could be discarded from dummy on the fourth round while West ruffed with the trump queen. Sanborn saw an extra chance. She cashed the ace and king of hearts and continued with a low heart toward dummy's jack. To West, it looked like declarer was surrendering a heart to partner's queen, so she chose to discard rather than ruff. Sanborn next ruffed a club back to hand and cashed the heart queen, discarding a diamond from dummy, and could no longer be prevented from ruffing a diamond later for her 10th trick!

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Saturday, February 1, 2014

GOREN BRIDGE

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q 1 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold: As dealer, what call would you make?

♠ A Q 3 ♥ 7 5 ♦ K J 8 6 4 ♣ K Q 4

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
INT	2♥	Pass	Pass
?			

What call would you make?

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

♠ 9 6 4 ♥ A 10 9 3 ♦ A 10 9 4 ♣ 6 2

With the opponents silent, partner opens one no trump. What call would you make?

Q 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ Q 8 6 5 ♥ A Q 9 7 4 ♦ A Q 3 ♣ 10

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♥	Pass	INT	Pass
?			

What call would you make?

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

♠ A 10 4 2 ♥ K 8 6 ♦ A ♣ 9 8 6 3 2

Q 5 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ Q J 5 ♥ A Q J 10 ♦ J 10 6 4 2 ♣ 2

The bidding:

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

What call would you make?

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

♠ K ♥ A K 2 ♦ Q J 10 7 3 2 ♣ J 8 6

The bidding:

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

What call would you make?

Look for answers on Monday.

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Sunday, February 2, 2014

GOREN BRIDGE

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LEAD LOGIC

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ A Q
♥ K 9 8 6 5
♦ 9 8
♣ A 5 4 2

WEST

♠ 10 8
♥ 7 3 2
♦ Q 10 7
♣ K Q J 10 9

EAST

♠ 5 3
♥ A Q J
♦ K J 6 4 3
♣ 8 7 6

SOUTH

♠ K J 9 7 6 4 2
♥ 10 4
♦ A 5 2
♣ 3

The bidding:

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

Opening lead: King of ♣

Should you find yourself on lead with a suit as good as K Q J 10 9, you would be hard-pressed not to lead it. Even if an opponent has bid that suit in the auction, it is a lead of uncommon safety. Today's hand was an eye-opener for West.

South's invitational three spade bid was a bold move. The hand was

looking like a misfit and there were several big holes in his suit. He just couldn't bring himself to re-bid the conservative two spades. North had an excellent hand for spades and was happy to boost partner to game. Could West find the killing trump lead?

The temptation to lead that club suit was overwhelming. South won the opening club lead and ducked a diamond. The defense shifted to a trump, but it was too late. South won the ace in dummy, crossed to the ace of diamonds, and ruffed a diamond with dummy's queen. Back to his hand with a club ruff to draw the outstanding trumps and claim his 10 tricks — eight trumps and the two minor suit aces.

Should West have found the killing lead? There is much to recommend it. North has shown five hearts and at least four clubs. North had enough in spades to raise to four, so he had to be short in diamonds. A trump lead is looking better all the time!

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ ANSWERS

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

♠ **A Q 3** ♥ **7 5** ♦ **K J 8 6 4** ♣ **K Q 4**

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1NT	2♥	Pass	Pass
?			

What call would you make?

A - Many players today consider a two-level double by the one no trump opener to be for take-out, regardless of which opponent has bid. A double by the one no trump opener when sitting “under” the over-caller has always been for take-out. Double.

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

♠ **9 6 4** ♥ **A 10 9 3** ♦ **A 10 9 4** ♣ **6 2**

With the opponents silent, partner opens one no trump. What call would you make?

A - It is almost always right to pass one no trump when holding a balanced eight-count with no five-card suit. A hand with two chunky four-card suits is the exception. These suits are chunky! Bid two clubs, Stayman, and raise should partner show hearts. Continue with two no trump if he doesn't.

Q 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ **Q 8 6 5** ♥ **A Q 9 7 4** ♦ **A Q 3** ♣ **10**

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
?			

What call would you make?

A - Two spades is out. You are not strong enough to reverse and partner has denied four spades, so what would be the point. The choice is between pass and two diamonds. We like two diamonds. This is not perfect, but many good things could happen.

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

♠ **A 10 4 2** ♥ **K 8 6** ♦ **A** ♣ **9 8 6 3 2**

As dealer, what call would you make?

A - Were the ace of diamonds located in the club suit, we would happily open one club. This hand, with so much of its value in the short suits, is flawed. Pass.

Q 5 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ **Q J 5** ♥ **A Q J 10** ♦ **J 10 6 4 2** ♣ **2**

The bidding:

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

What call would you make?

A - You had an awkward choice at your last turn and made a reasonable decision. Partner knows your values and is signing off in three clubs. Don't disturb him with a three-spade bid. You will only get overboard. Pass!

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

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

The bidding:

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

What call would you make?

A - You do have a club fit, but nine tricks is so much easier than 11. Bid three no trump.

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