

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

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WHAT'S THE RUSH?

North-South vulnerable, East deals

NORTH

♠ 9 6 3
♥ A Q J 10 5 4 3
♦ 9 8
♣ 2

WEST

♠ Q 8 4 2
♥ 9 2
♦ K 6
♣ A Q J 10 6

EAST

♠ K 10 7
♥ 6
♦ Q J 5 3 2
♣ 8 5 4 3

SOUTH

♠ A J 5
♥ K 8 7
♦ A 10 7 4
♣ K 9 7

The bidding:

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

All pass

*Transfer to hearts

Opening lead: King of ♦

East took advantage of the vulnerability and opened a weak two-bid with only five cards in his suit, as some scoundrels occasionally do. South won the opening diamond lead with his ace, drew trumps in two rounds ending in dummy, and led a club to his king. Alas for South, West held the ace and he shifted to a low

spade. Declarer captured East's king with his ace and led a low diamond to dummy's nine and East's jack. East led a club and declarer eventually had to lose two spade tricks for down one. Could he have done better?

Yes! There was no rush to take his ace of diamonds. Had he ducked, West would no doubt have continued with a diamond to the jack and ace. Two rounds of trumps, ending in declarer's hand, would be followed by the 10 of diamonds. South would discard dummy's club on the 10, losing to East's queen. South would win the spade shift with his ace and discard a spade from dummy on the established seven of diamonds, making four!

Had the king of diamonds been a singleton and West shifted to a low spade, South would win and draw two rounds of trumps ending in dummy. A diamond would be covered by East and won by South, and the 10 of diamonds would be led for a club discard. East would win and return a spade, forcing South to guess the spade position. That shouldn't be too difficult and the contract would sail home.

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this paper or tcaeditors@tribpub.com)