

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

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OBLIGATORY FALSE CARD

Both vulnerable, South deals

NORTH

♠ K Q 10 2

♥ 8 2

♦ A 6

♣ J 10 9 6 4

WEST

♠ J 9 7 3

♥ A J 6 3

♦ 9 7 3

♣ Q 2

EAST

♠ 4

♥ K Q 7 5 4

♦ Q J 5 4

♣ 8 5 3

SOUTH

♠ A 8 6 5

♥ 10 9

♦ K 10 8 2

♣ A K 7

The bidding:

| SOUTH | WEST | NORTH | EAST |
|-------|----------|-------|------|
| 1NT | Pass | 2♣ | 2♥ |
| 2♠ | Pass | 3♠ | Pass |
| 4♠ | All pass | | |

Opening lead: Ace of ♥

Today's deal is from a recent competition in Australia, where the weak no trump, 12-14 points, is popular. The defense started with the ace of hearts and a heart to East's queen. East shifted to a club, won by South with the ace.

South led a low spade to dummy's king and continued correctly with a

low spade to his ace. He was hoping for a 3-2 split, of course, but he could handle a 4-1 split provided it was West who held four. East discarded on the second spade and declarer led a spade to dummy's 10. He left the last trump outstanding for the moment and led the jack of clubs from dummy. He played low from his hand, losing to West's now bare queen. West did the best he could by leading another heart, but South discarded a club from dummy and ruffed in hand with the eight of spades. He crossed back to dummy with the ace of diamonds, drew the last trump, discarding the king of clubs from his hand, and claimed the balance.

This was well played by declarer, but the defense missed a chance to lead him astray. When South led a low spade to dummy's king, West should have followed smoothly with the nine! At that point, South would have been able to handle a 4-1 split regardless of which defender held four. He would have had a difficult decision to make. Plays like the nine of spades are called "obligatory false cards". They are plays you must make or declarer can never go wrong.

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' e-mails: tcaeditors@tribpub.com)