

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

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SIMPLE IS BEST

Both vulnerable, South deals

NORTH

♠ 10 9 8 6

♥ Q J 10 6

♦ K 5 4 2

♣ A

WEST

♠ 7 5 4 3

♥ 7 5 3

♦ A 9 3

♣ J 10 6

EAST

♠ J

♥ 9 8 2

♦ J 10 8 7 6

♣ K 7 5 2

SOUTH

♠ A K Q 2

♥ A K 4

♦ Q

♣ Q 9 8 4 3

The bidding:

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

Opening lead: Ace of ♦

Most American experts, we believe, would rebid two spades rather than one spade with the South hand. This deal was played recently at a competition in Australia, where they don't bid quite the same as we do and are proud of it! South was Australian expert Pauline Gumby. There were seven declarers in a spade

slam on this deal and only Gumby took 12 tricks.

West led his ace of diamonds and continued with another diamond. Gumby won with dummy's king and discarded a club from hand. She cashed the ace of clubs and led a low heart to her ace, then ruffed a club with the eight of spades. The six of spades went to the jack and ace and Gumby ruffed another club in dummy. She cashed the 10 of spades in dummy and crossed back to her hand with the king of hearts. She drew the trumps and claimed the balance with two good hearts in dummy.

This seems like a simple hand – ruff two clubs in dummy, draw trumps, and claim. What went wrong at the other tables? We suspect that other declarers got the jack of clubs lead. They didn't see the importance of leading a diamond early in the play and eventually got caught up in ruffing too many clubs in dummy, or possibly ruffing a diamond as an entry to their hand. They might have run afoul of the 4-1 trump split. Sometimes it is hard to keep a simple hand simple.

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