

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

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OPENING LEADS

North-South vulnerable, South deals

NORTH

♠ K Q J 10 5

♥ 7 4 3

♦ 3 2

♣ J 9 6

WEST

♠ A 8 6 4 3

♥ J 10

♦ Q J 7 5

♣ 10 5

EAST

♠ 9 2

♥ 8 6

♦ A 10 9 8

♣ A Q 8 3 2

SOUTH

♠ 7

♥ A K Q 9 5 2

♦ K 6 4

♣ K 7 4

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♥	Pass	1♠	Dbl
3♥	Pass	4♥	All pass

Opening lead: 10 of ♣

Today's deal is from a recent online competition between two European teams. At the other table, East never entered the auction and North passed South's invitational jump rebid. The queen of diamonds lead, the favorable position of the club honors, and the 2-2 trump split made 10 tricks a breeze.

At this table, East made a take-out double at the one level – a

reasonable choice. West led the 10 of clubs, which declarer covered with dummy's jack. East won with the ace and continued the suit. South successfully ran this to dummy's nine, drew the trumps, and easily took 10 tricks. Could the defense have done better?

Yes! East should have covered the jack of clubs with the queen at trick one and let South's king win the trick. At some point, West would win his ace of spades and lead another club. East's ace-eight of clubs would be sitting over dummy's nine and East would take two club tricks and the diamond ace to go with West's ace of spades. Down one!

Old-timers will remember "top of nothing" leads, where the 10 might be led from three or four cards. East would have to grab his ace at trick one or risk losing it. In the modern game, the lead of the 10, without the nine, suggests shortness. East would still have to decide whether partner had a singleton or a doubleton club, but the winning defense would be easier to find.

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this newspaper or to Tribune Content Agency, LLC., 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, TX 75001.)