

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

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WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Both vulnerable, South deals

NORTH

♠ 7 3
♥ Q 10 4 3
♦ K 8 5 3
♣ 9 7 5

WEST

♠ 8 5 4
♥ 2
♦ J 9 7 6 4
♣ Q 10 8 3

EAST

♠ 9 2
♥ K 9 8 7 5
♦ Q 10 2
♣ J 4 2

SOUTH

♠ A K Q J 10 6
♥ A J 6
♦ A
♣ A K 6

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT*	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♠	All pass		

*Not a double negative, hence some values

Opening lead: Two of ♥

We wonder how many declarers would correctly identify the problem on today's deal. Many declarers would see the opening heart lead as an opportunity to avoid a heart loser. They would play the queen from dummy trying to induce East to

cover with his king. East could defeat the contract by simply withholding his king. Should declarer then take the heart finesse while in dummy, he would suffer a ruff and a slow club loser. Any other sequence and he would have to lose a heart and a club. Also, West might have the king of hearts and the clever play of the queen from dummy never had a chance.

All that is a mirage. The contract is ice cold provided declarer sees that he just needs a late entry to dummy. South should play low from dummy at trick one, and win East's seven with his ace! He could then draw trumps and cash the ace of diamonds before leading the jack of hearts and overtaking it with dummy's queen. East would have no answer. There would be a certain heart entry to dummy and declarer would be able to discard his low club on the king of diamonds.

This is quite a simple hand, really. It only requires that declarer correctly identify the problem.

(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. E-mail: tcaeditors@tribpub.com)