

# GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

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## ALL RISE

Both vulnerable, South deals

### NORTH

♠ A K Q  
♥ J 10 7 6  
♦ J 6 4  
♣ J 7 2

### WEST

♠ J  
♥ A 9 5  
♦ K 8 7 5 3  
♣ 9 5 4 3

### EAST

♠ 9 7 5 4 3  
♥ K 8 2  
♦ Q 9  
♣ K 10 8

### SOUTH

♠ 10 8 6 2  
♥ Q 4 3  
♦ A 10 2  
♣ A Q 6

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
1NT	Pass	3NT	All pass

Opening lead: Five of ♦

East in today's deal was Zia Mahmood, one of the most colorful personalities in bridge history. He rose to bridge prominence in the early 1980's and spent more than a decade representing Pakistan in world championship play. When not playing for his country, he split his time between London and New York playing high-stakes rubber bridge.

He relocated to the USA in the mid-1990's and has won three world championships while representing the USA.

Declarer played low from dummy on the opening diamond lead and Zia played his queen. There is much to be said for playing the nine instead, playing partner for A10xxx or K10xxx rather than AKxxx. Should the nine be the winning play, however, that would leave the suit blocked and the defense might not have time to unblock. It didn't matter on this deal and declarer captured the queen with the ace.

South cleverly crossed to dummy with a spade in order to lead a low heart. His hope was to lose the first heart trick to West, knocking out his entry before the diamonds were set up. Assuming that the hearts behaved favorably, he could develop his ninth trick from the club suit later. Zia foiled this plan brilliantly by rising with his king of hearts to fire back his remaining diamond. This set up West's suit and he still had the ace of hearts as an entry.

South might have tried the jack of hearts from dummy instead of a low heart. We're sure Zia would have found the winning play, but he would have had to think about it for a moment.