

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

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OPEN BOOK

Neither vulnerable, South deals

NORTH

♠ 4 3
♥ J 8 6 2
♦ A 10 5 3
♣ A K 6

WEST

♠ A K 9 8 5 2
♥ Q 10
♦ 6 4
♣ Q 4 2

EAST

♠ 10
♥ 9 7 5 3
♦ K J 9 8
♣ J 8 7 5

SOUTH

♠ Q J 7 6
♥ A K 4
♦ Q 7 2
♣ 10 9 3

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♣	2♠	Dbl*	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass

*Negative

Opening lead: Eight of ♠

Today's deal is from a match between ladies teams from Austria and England. South was Nicola Smith, long a mainstay of the English ladies team. Most English players use the "weak" no trump, showing 12-14 points. That was obviously not the case for Smith and her partner.

Smith won the opening spade lead with her queen and took stock of her

meager assets. There were only six tricks on top, so there was much work to be done. She started by banging down her ace and king of hearts, felling two honors from West and getting her total up to seven tricks. She crossed to dummy with the ace of clubs and led a low diamond, winning with her queen when East played low. Eight tricks.

Smith now ducked a diamond to East's nine. East continued with the king of diamonds to dummy's ace and the whole hand was known when West discarded a spade to this trick. West had started with 6-2-2-3 distribution and the clubs were sure to be splitting 4-3. Smith cashed dummy's king of clubs and exited with a club, knowing that whoever won this trick would have to give her a ninth trick.

Should East win, she could cash another club and a diamond, but would then have to lead into dummy's jack-eight of hearts. Should West win, which is what happened at the table, West would have to give South the jack of spades for her ninth trick. Well played!

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this paper. Please send your e-mail responses to tcaeditors@tribpub.com)