



BRIDGE® BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ K 10
 ♥ K Q 7
 ♦ J 10 8 6 4 2
 ♣ J 10

WEST
 ♠ J 8 4 3 2
 ♥ J 6 5 4
 ♦ A K 9 5
 ♣ —

EAST
 ♠ 9 6 5
 ♥ 9 8
 ♦ Q 7 3
 ♣ A Q 5 4 2

SOUTH
 ♠ A Q 7
 ♥ A 10 3 2
 ♦ —
 ♣ K 9 8 7 6 3

The bidding:
 South West North East
 2 ♠ Dble 2 ♦ Pass
 2 ♥ Pass 3 ♣ Pass
 5 ♠ Pass Pass Dble

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

The best hands are those where a relatively simple way to assure the contract might be overlooked by novice and expert alike. Today's deal, from the 1993 Vanderbilt Teams, provides a case in point.

When the deal was first played, North-South reached five clubs doubled as shown. South's opening two-club bid showed 11 to 16 points and at least five clubs, and two diamonds asked for more information. The rest of the bidding was natural.

West led the king of diamonds, ruffed by South with the three. It might seem that with East holding five trumps headed by the A-Q and declarer already reduced to just five trumps, there is no way he can maintain control of the hand. It appears that whenever East gains the lead with the club ace, he can force South to ruff another diamond and thus assure himself of a third trump trick. Then there is also the matter of what South will do with the ten of hearts.

Unfazed by these concerns, David Berkowitz, the declarer, found a virtually sure route to 11 tricks that was elegant in its simplicity. Noting that his clubs were solid apart from the A-Q, he cashed the K-Q of hearts followed by the K-Q-A of spades, discarding the seven of hearts from dummy. The ten of hearts was then ruffed with dummy's club ten.

If East refused to overruff, Berkowitz could ruff a diamond in his hand and ruff the ace of hearts with the club jack. South's only losers in that case would be the A-Q of clubs. If instead East overruffed the club ten with the queen and returned a low trump to prevent another heart ruff in dummy, South could win with the king and force out the ace of clubs, eventually scoring the heart ace as his 11th trick.

At the other table, South also played five clubs doubled but slipped by leading a heart to dummy at trick two in order to play a club toward his hand. East rose with the ace and forced declarer to ruff a diamond, and the contract went down one.

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JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
 By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Kneuk

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TRFIL

ORNBW

NKCYAR

HLTRLI

Print your answer here: [] [] [] [] - [] [] [] [] - [] [] [] []

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FABLE EJECT FIERCE GRAVEL
 Answer: After gaining independence from Britain, their favorite beverage was — "LIBER-TEA"