

# BRIDGE

James Jacoby

**NORTH** 7-10-87  
 ♠ A 7 4  
 ♥ A Q J 5  
 ♦ J 5 3  
 ♣ A Q 10

**WEST**  
 ♠ J 10 6 2  
 ♥ 10 9 8  
 ♦ 9 2  
 ♣ 9 8 5 4


**EAST**  
 ♠ K  
 ♥ K 8 7 3 2  
 ♦ 10 8 7 6 4  
 ♣ 7 3

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ Q 9 8 5 3  
 ♥ 4  
 ♦ A K Q  
 ♣ K J 6 2

Vulnerable: East-West  
 Dealer: North

West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♠	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♣	Pass	5 NT
Pass	6 ♣	Pass	6 ♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: ♥ 10



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## Wounded, but not fatally

By James Jacoby

North-South had plenty of high cards to be in a slam, and they also had eight cards in the trump suit. But the texture in spades was a little weak. You often lose two tricks when the defenders hold five to the K-J-10. Here, after winning dummy's ace of hearts, declarer played the spade ace. When East produced the king, South played another spade and conceded down one. But even after this bad split in trumps was revealed, South could have reduced his trumps to the same length as West's and have made the slam.

At trick three, South should play the queen of hearts, ruffing East's king. Now three rounds of clubs ending in dummy will tell declarer that West started with four clubs. Declarer can try to cash the jack of hearts or not. If South decides that the heart jack will live without being ruffed, then he should make his contract. The play proceeds: heart jack, discarding the diamond queen, then A-K of diamonds, followed by the last club. Declarer now has Q-9-8 of spades, while defender West is left with J-10-6. Playing a low spade will put West on lead with nothing to do but lead back into the declarer's strength, and 12 tricks will be made.

Declarer might guess wrong and try to take three top diamond tricks. Then West will make a trick with his little spade and set the contract. But even that is better than just giving up at trick three by playing a second trump.

A new book by James Jacoby and his father, the late Oswald Jacoby, is now available at bookstores. It is "Jacoby on Card Games," published by Pharos Books.

## POETS CORNER

GROW UP  
 Winter mornings  
 should begin  
 with the hint  
 of toast  
 in nostrils  
 just touching  
 the edge of an ancient quilt  
 Wondering  
 how to instantly  
 get  
 from bed to kitchen  
 without frostbite  
 a major challenge  
 The advance  
 from home to school  
 a battle  
 with snowballs  
 as satisfactory ammunition  
 The more  
 I watch  
 I'm convinced  
 kids don't grow up  
 they just grow older  
 Take a snowball to work.  
 Marlowe C. Dickson  
 R.R.2 Beeton, Ontario  
 LOG 1A0