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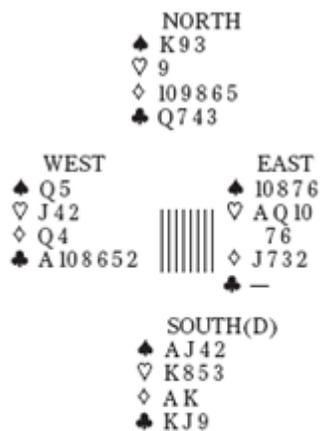
BRIDGE

Tournament Deal: No Psychics, but One Ace

By PHILLIP ALDER

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Barbara Sonsini of Woodside, Calif.; Migry Zur Campanile and Melih Ozdil of New York; Mark Lair of Canyon, Tex.; and Garey Hayden of Tucson finished third in the Keohane North American Swiss Teams at the Fall Nationals in San Diego this month. They did well on the diagramed deal from the final session.



East and West were vulnerable. The bidding:

South	West	North	East
2 N.T.	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 N.T.	Pass	Pass	Pass

West led the club six.

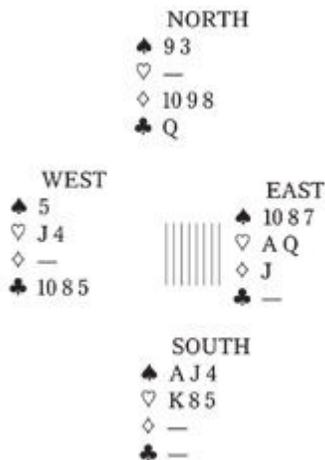


Diagram 2

At both tables South debatably upgraded his hand and opened two no-trump. And the two Norths responded three clubs. In the other room South replied three diamonds, denying a five-card major. North now erred, rebidding three no-trump, which promised 4-4 in the majors. After a lot of thought South corrected to four spades. The pause persuaded Campanile (West) to lead the club ace. When she continued with another club, Hayden (East), to defeat the contract for sure, had to discard a diamond. Not being psychic, though, he ruffed and shifted to a diamond.

Declarer would have made the contract if he had dropped the club king at Trick 2, taken his two diamond winners, cashed the spade ace, played a spade to dummy's king, ruffed out East's diamond jack, drawn East's last trump and crossed to dummy by overtaking his club jack with the queen. Then he would have discarded two hearts on the winning diamonds before leading a heart toward his king. He would have taken three spades, one heart, four diamonds, one club and one diamond ruff. But — surprise, surprise — he did not find that line and went down one.

In the given auction South's three-no-trump rebid showed 4-4 in the majors.

West led a club, and East discarded a heart. Ozdil (South) won with his nine, unblocked the diamond honors and led the club jack.

If West had played low, declarer planned to overtake with dummy's queen and drive out the diamond jack. But West rose with his ace and returned a club to South's king, East discarding a diamond and a heart. South now exited with a low heart.

East won with his ten and shifted to a low spade, covered by West's queen and dummy's king. This was the end-position (see Diagram 1).

Ozdil cashed dummy's club queen (East and South discarding hearts), played a spade to his ace and led a low heart to East's ace. East cashed the diamond jack, but declarer took the last two tricks with his spade ace and heart king.

Plus 50 and plus 400 gave the Campanile team 10 international match points on the board.

Ozdil was born in Turkey but has lived in the United States for the last three years. He has a reputation for being an excellent card player, which this deal will not dispel.

