

Jude has been getting on my nerves with his obscure but undeniably brilliant plays, and especially with his explanations. I hoped to take him down a peg by arranging a team game at the ward. To add to the excitement, I would hold his cards at the other table. We were South.

The first deal did not augur well. We both played a three diamond contract after opening a marginal hand:

Love All. Dealer North.

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| ♠ 964 | ♠ A52 |
| ♥ K82 | ♥ QJ75 |
| ♦ A5 | ♦ J874 |
| ♣ QJ1053 | ♣ 96 |
| ♠ Q1087 | ♠ KJ3 |
| ♥ A9543 | ♥ 106 |
| ♦ 6 | ♦ KQ10932 |
| ♣ A874 | ♣ K2 |

| | | | |
|------|-------|----------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| - | Pass | Pass | 1♦ |
| Dbl | Rdbl | 1♥ | 2♦ |
| 2♥ | 3♦ | All Pass | |

The opening lead was the ace of clubs. Hoping for a club continuation, I did not unblock. In response to East's nine, West continued another club. Now all I had to do was draw trumps and hope for the heart ace to be onside; I'd have an overtrick. When diamonds didn't split, I was in trouble. The unfortunate placement of the spades meant I had to go down even though I avoided a trump loser by adroitly leading a heart after two rounds of diamonds. When I learned Jude had made the contract, I was annoyed.

Had he really guessed to finesse diamonds? Did he pick up a huddle suggesting Andrew was thinking of doubling?

"No, I didn't hook the diamond", Jude intoned. "I didn't want to lose to the jack. The play began as it had at your table. I just played West to have the heart ace when he failed to lead one. I played the king of diamonds followed by a diamond to the ace. Then I played a club winner."

Belatedly, I realized that this weird way of drawing trumps worked for any division.

My aunts struck back on the next

board. At my table, Beverly opened a normal 4♠, blew us away and went down a normal two tricks. At Jude's table, however, Marcia held the West cards. She tried a 3♠ opening, in accord with my precept that a preempt is designed to allow the opponents to enter the auction at a high level. (I would never say that when you play the cards weakly, you should underbid...)

flair. He won the spade lead, cashed a diamond, ruffed a spade and played four rounds of clubs. Then he exited with a trump to endplay East for down one.

We lost a game swing soon after. Again there were identical auctions and Jude fulfilled a contract I didn't. This time it wasn't my fault.

East/West Vul. Dealer West.

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| ♠ AK10 | ♠ J654 |
| ♥ 72 | ♥ A9 |
| ♦ AQ85 | ♦ J10942 |
| ♣ 8753 | ♣ 64 |
| ♠ 983 | ♠ Q72 |
| ♥ K108543 | ♥ QJ6 |
| ♦ 6 | ♦ K73 |
| ♣ KQJ | ♣ A1092 |

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|----------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| 2♥ | Dbl | Pass | 3NT |
| All Pass | | | |

Following a tried and true rule, Beverly led a heart against me. After I won the third heart, what else was there to do but hope for diamonds to split?

I had failed to sense the danger in this board. Marcia got confused about lead rules and led a safe honour sequence. Jude false-carded with the nine, but West was not taken in. Still not wanting to lead away from a king, she shifted to the spade nine. "That reprieve was all I needed", Jude explained in the post-mortem. "I won in dummy and tried a club to the ten."

"Big deal", I interrupted. "So now you have two club tricks. But they haven't given you a heart trick, so how can you make it? If you go after a heart yourself, West can establish a long spade for his partner. Did they discard stup- er, I mean, sub-optimally?"

Jude loves this kind of discussion. "No, the hand was cold now. West exited with a second spade, which I won in my hand. I knew the heart honours were divided because West had such good clubs. I cashed two more clubs ending in dummy; that's why I unblocked the club early. I wouldn't bother to false-card here." This is my friend talking, I reminded myself. He doesn't mean anything personal

Jude visits the S I O W Lane

by David J. Weiss

Game All. Dealer West.

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| ♠ 87 | ♠ Q2 |
| ♥ AQ82 | ♥ K1075 |
| ♦ A108 | ♦ KQJ |
| ♣ KJ72 | ♣ 10643 |
| ♠ KJ1096543 | ♠ A |
| ♥ J3 | ♥ 964 |
| ♦ 2 | ♦ 976543 |
| ♣ Q5 | ♣ A98 |

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|----------|
| West | North | East | South |
| 3♠ | Dbl | Pass | 5♦ |
| Pass | Pass | Dbl | All Pass |

Jude played the hand with his usual

Jude clarified the ending. "What could East pitch? One diamond is easy, but what else? If he gives up his small heart, he will have to win the defence's first heart trick and will have no entry to cash the established spade. When East instead surrendered a spade, I could lead toward my hearts. Whatever West did next, I could generate a heart trick and make the contract."

The biggest swing of the match went Jude's way. The really bad result occurred at my table, but I don't see what I could have done about it. Rick opened a natural two clubs in front of me, and I didn't have enough to overcall. Then when Beverly jumped to four hearts, we gave up. She took eleven tricks easily. At Jude's table, the auction followed more standard lines after Andrew's one level opening:

Love All. Dealer East.

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| <p>♠ K9753 ♥ - ♦ 8652 ♣ AJ53</p> <p>♠ 106 ♥ AK109764 ♦ QJ74 ♣ -</p> <p>♠ AQ842 ♥ J52 ♦ A93 ♣ 82</p> | <p>♠ J ♥ Q83 ♦ K10 ♣ KQ109764</p> |
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defence.

Going into the last board, we were behind by four IMPs.

Let's pose a bidding problem for you here. Both sides are vulnerable and you are in fourth seat. The bidding proceeds: 1♣ - Pass - 1♥ to you, and you hold ♠ 84 ♥ KQ ♦ AK986432 ♣ 7. What is you call? My strong preference is for a simple two diamonds; this is a good hand both offensively and defensively. I hate to pre-empt with an ace-king. At the table, though, neither player agreed with me.

Andrew tried 4♦, which had the effect of making Jude guess what to do. So far so good, since that's what we want a pre-empt to accomplish. Jude guessed to bid 4♠, and was left to play it. Marcia led the diamond jack. Can you duplicate Jude's successful plan?

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| <p>♠ KJ5 ♥ 108754 ♦ Q105 ♣ 104</p> <p>♠ Q106 ♥ J62 ♦ J7 ♣ Q9652</p> <p>♠ A9732 ♥ A93 ♦ - ♣ AKJ83</p> | <p>♠ 84 ♥ KQ ♦ AK986432 ♣ 7</p> |
|--|---|

| West | North | East | South |
|------|----------|------|-------|
| - | - | 1♣ | 1♠ |
| 2♥ | 4♠ | Pass | Pass |
| 5♥ | 5♠ | Pass | Pass |
| Dbl | All Pass | | |

After the ace of hearts lead, the hand was over. Hard as it is to believe, Jude telescoped the obvious three losers into two. He eliminated hearts while drawing trumps, which seemed natural enough to me.

"But then," I exclaimed, "dummy was out of trumps!" "How can there be an endplay?"

Jude simply played the ace and three of diamonds. If East won the trick, Jude could duck the club king and then pitch his diamond nine when another club went into the tenace. If West were to win the trick instead, the eight of diamonds would be established for a club discard since honours would have had to crash. So long as the opening bidder had two diamonds, both of which were honours, there was, quite simply, no

Ruffing the diamond king, Jude drew trumps with a finesse. Then he led a heart toward hand, and when an honour appeared, he ducked. If a high diamond were to come back, Jude would ruff and play ace and a heart. Even if hearts were four-one, Jude would make the hand if West had the club queen; there would be no safe exit after West took two heart winners. East's actual club return simplified declarer's task, but nothing mattered.

Although this did not look like a great result for my team, it turned out to be just fine. Rick had been criticized for missing a game on an earlier board, and he certainly wasn't about to let that happen again. He solved the bidding problem by leaping to 5♦, a pre-empt which left me with little option but to double. I felt we might be missing a slam, but how could I find it? That was 800, so we won by an IMP.

Feeling triumphant, I was looking forward to explaining to Jude how we had done it.