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BRIDGE by  
PHILLIP ALDER

IF IT IS A LOSER, DO  
NOT RUFF AT FIRST

William Lyon Phelps was a popular columnist and public speaker who taught the first American university course on the modern novel. He said, "If at first you don't succeed, find out if the loser gets anything."

At the bridge table, a loser usually gives a trick to the opponents. Sometimes, though, taking that trick can be costly. In today's deal, what should be the result in four spades after West leads the club king?

Note East's balancing one-no-trump overcall. This shows only 11 to 15 points. With a normal strong no-trump, East doubles and rebids in no-trump.

South's three-heart rebid and North's jump to four spades were aggressive but reasonable. North liked his three-card spade support, a ruffing value in South's second suit and an ace.

South wins the first trick with dummy's ace, plays a heart to his queen, cashes the heart ace, and leads another heart. Should West ruff with his spade 10 or pitch a minor-suit card?

North

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

East

♠ A J 3  
♥ K 9 6 2  
♦ K Q 4  
♣ 10 8 3

South

♠ K Q 9 7 4  
♥ A Q J 10 5  
♦ A J  
♣ J

Dealer: South  
Vulnerable: Both

South

1 ♠  
3 ♥

West

Pass  
Pass

North

Pass  
4 ♣

East

1 NT  
All pass

Opening lead: ♠ K

In general, if declarer is about to ruff a loser, the defender should discard.

Here, if West ruffs, the contract can be made. South trumps the (say) club continuation, ruffs a heart on the board (bringing down East's king), and plays a spade to his nine. He continues with a high trump and loses only two spades and one diamond.

If West correctly discards at trick four, the play gets interesting. South ruffs, trumps a club in his hand and leads another heart. Now West must ruff! He then leads a minor, and South cannot avoid losing another two spades and one diamond to East.

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Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.


|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   | 6 |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |
| 4 | 7 | 3 |   | 9 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 5 | 1 |   |   | 4 | 6 | 7 |   |   |
| 3 |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | 6 |   |   | 3 |   |   | 1 |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | 3 |   | 9 |
|   |   | 8 | 4 | 6 |   |   | 3 | 1 |
| 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 7 |   | 8 | 9 | 4 |
|   |   |   |   | 8 |   | 6 |   |   |

5/6

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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LEGALS

(First published in the Abilene Reflector-Chronicle, Tuesday, April 22nd, 2025)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF DICKINSON COUNTY, KANSAS NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE of BRUCE LEON TAYLOR, Deceased.  
Case No. DK-2025-PR-000027

You are hereby notified that on April 16th, 2025. A Petition for Probate of Will and Issuance of Letters Testamentary, under the Kansas Simplified Estates Act, was been filed in this court by Joan Taylor as named alternate Executrix in the Last Will and Testament of Bruce Leon Taylor, deceased, dated November 12, 2008, requesting that the instrument attached thereto be admitted to probate and record as the Last Will and Testament of the decedent and that Letters Testamentary, under the Kansas Simplified Estates Act, be issued to her as Executrix, to serve without bond. You are further advised that under the provisions of the Kansas Simplified Estates Act, the court need not supervise administration of the estate, and no notice of any action of the Executrix, or other proceedings in the administration of the estate will be given, except for notice of final settlement of the decedent's estate. You are further advised if written objection to simplified administration are filed with the court, the court may order that supervised administration ensue. You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before May 22nd, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. in the District Court, in Abilene, Dickinson County Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition. All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the estate within four (4) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, as provided by law, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, thirty (30) days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Joan Taylor, Petitioner

SUBMITTED BY:

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