Bridge

By Alan Truscott
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Players who fancy their defensive skill should cover the East and South hands in the diagramed deal and make a plan for West in defending four spades.

South has opened one spade, and East has overcalled in hearts. You lead your singleton heart and East wins with the ace. He returns the heart queen, South plays the king and you ruff. What now?

The deal was reported many years ago by one of the world's great player-writers, Jean Besse, in his Swiss newspaper column. It has now appeared in "Bridge 66 Curiosits," one of the best collections ever published, by Besse and his former partner, Pierre Beguin. For those who can read French, a copy can be obtained by sending $15, including postage, to The Bridge World, 39 West 94th Street, New York, N.Y. 10025. Those who cannot will have to wait for the translation that is planned. Knowledge About Aces

Now back to West's problem. He can be sure that South has the minor-suit aces to justify his opening bid, and if he also has the spade queen, the defense has virtually no chance. What chance do the defenders have if East has that card?

South will strain to keep East from gaining the lead to cash his heart winner, so he will lead to the spade king in dummy. The spade ace and the spade queen will crash together, and South will eventually throw his heart loser on diamonds to make his contract.

The question in the first paragraph above is therefore a small deception. West must think before he ruffs the heart king, not after, and then refuse to ruff. This dooms the contract, for West will gain the lead with the spade queen in time to cash the heart jack.

This might seem to be simply clever post-mortem analysis, but in real life West did refuse to ruff. This was a superb decision by a superb player.

Sitting in the West seat was Pietro Forquet of Italy, who in the 60's was widely regarded as the world's No. 1. His partner was another all-time great, Giorgio Belladonna, who, according to Besse, rose to his feet and bowed to the master. The episode was entitled "Voir loin," or look ahead.

Winners of the Nassau Championship held last weekend at Adelphi University in Garden City, L.I., were these:

Men's Pairs - Mel Colchamiro of Long Beach, L.I., and Leigh Steinberg of Roslyn, L.I.

Women's Pairs - Judy Schwartz of Roslyn and Roslyn Kurlan of Great Neck, L.I.

Mixed Pairs - Howard Chandross and Judy Tucker, both of Manhattan.
Flight A Pairs - Alex and Mitchel Pollenz of Wantagh, L.I.

Flight B Pairs - Vir Agarwal of Manhattan and Jerome Wasserman of Albertson, L.I.

Stratified Open Pairs, Flight A - Maralin Cohen of Great Neck and Honey Ellis of Roslyn Harbor, L.I.

Flight B - Art and Eileen Kaplan of Merrick, L.I.

Flight A Swiss - Lee Rautenberg of Dix Hills, L.I.; Ira Herman of Manhattan; Harry Stappenbeck of Uniondale, L.I., and Alan Tucker of Wantagh.

Flight B - Debra Leitner, Judy Goulding, Judith Ashe and Robert Beshers, all of Manhattan.