



Tod the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott





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Pass	3 NT		
Opening	g lead — t	wo of dia	monds.

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## **Famous Hand**

This deal occurred in a national championship many years ago, and features a spectacular play by one of bridge's all-time greats, Sidney Silodor.

He held the East hand and was defending against three notrump, reached on the auction shown. His partner led the diamond deuce, and, after taking dummy's jack with the ace, Silodor returned the king of spades! Regardless of whether declarer won this spade or the next one with the ace, dummy's heart tricks were hors de combat.

Eventually, South wound up losing five tricks for down one. With a more normal diamond return by Silodor at trick two, declarer would have had no trouble making nine tricks.

It is, of course, true that East's king-ofspades play gave declarer three spade tricks instead of only the one or two he might otherwise have scored. But any spade tricks Silodor might have lost by his unusual return were more than compensated for by the ultimate outcome.

Silodor reasoned that if South held the ace and another heart, there was no chance whatever of defeating the contract. He therefore had to assume that declarer had either the singleton ace of hearts, or one or two low hearts.

Whichever the case, dummy's ace of spades had to be dislodged at once to cut declarer off from the heart suit. If South happened to gain a spade trick or two in the process but went down as a result, that would be more than a fair exchange. And if it turned out that declarer had nine sure tricks from the start, the king-of-spades return would at worst cost only The hand was played in a team-of-four match. At the other table, the North-South pair wound up in four hearts and went down two.

GBV



"I can hop but I don't know how to hippity."

## Crossword

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