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Daily Bridge Club

Exceptional cases

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I've heard it said that any statement of 50 or more words is sure to contain at least one exception. Almost all bridge "rules" have exceptional cases — and a lot fewer than 50 words.

Today's South played at four hearts after East-West bid spades. West led the ace and deuce of spades, and East took the queen and shifted hopefully to the king of clubs.

Declarer took the ace, drew trumps and led the jack of diamonds, winning, and a diamond to the king and ace. When East led a second club, South took the queen, ruffed his last spade in dummy and threw his last club on the high diamond. Making four.

FOUR WORDS

"Punch declarer, not dummy" is the rule (comprising all of four words), but this deal was exceptional. At Trick Three, East must continue with the king of spades, forcing dummy to ruff and removing the late entry to the third diamond.

East need not rush to get club tricks. If he can prevent declarer from using the diamonds for a club discard, the contract may fail.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ K Q 9 8 ♥ J 10 2 ♦ A 9 5 3 ♣ K 10. Your partner opens one heart, you respond one

spade and he jumps to three hearts. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner's jump-rebid suggests about 16 high-card points and a good six-card suit. You have enough winners and controls to take over with a Blackwood bid of 4NT, planning to bid six hearts unless he has only one ace. If partner's hand is A 5, A K 9 6 5 4, 8 7, A 9 4, slam will be all but cold.

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♥ J 4
♠ 8 7 5 3
♦ K Q 10
♣ 8 5 4 2

WEST

♠ A 7 3 2
♥ 9
♦ 7 6 4 2
♣ J 9 7 3

EAST

♠ K Q 9 8
♥ J 10 2
♦ A 9 5 3
♣ K 10

SOUTH

♠ 10 6 5
♦ A K Q 6 4
♥ J 8
♣ A Q 6

North
Pass
2♥

East
1♦
2♠

South
1♥
4♥

West
Dbl
All Pass

Opening lead — ♠ A

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The New York Times
Crossword

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No. 0817

ACROSS

1 Anger

4 Theda of silent films

8 "Three ___!" (1986 western comedy)

14 Parts of clown costumes

16 Raiser of alarm in a coal mine

17 You might dip a 15-Down in this before writing something

18 Small part in a superhero film?

19 Wild guess

20 Baseball's "Slammin'" Sammy

22 Take care of, as a task

23 Gaping mouth

24 Ruined, as a martini, per 007

26 You might dip a 25-Down in this to test the water

31 Had words (with)

32 Performs, as a historical event

36 Things set on windowsills to cool

37 Forbid

38 ___ Zor-EI (Supergirl's real name)

39 Candy ___ (hospital volunteers)

42 Shakespeare's fairy king

44 You might dip 37-Down in this at a dinner party

46 Sweet Italian wine

49 LAX's counterpart in northern California

50 Thrill

51 One getting suckered

53 Japanese speaker brand

57 Luxury watch brand

59 You might dip a 55-Down in this to make a candle

61 Short-story writer famous for twist endings

62 Basic pizza serving

63 Strappy footwear

64 Zippo

65 B'way buy

DOWN

1 Tall purple flower

2 Flat fee?

3 Classic Icelandic saga

4 Showy bit of neckwear

5 "To repeat myself ..."

6 Fame

7 Inquires

8 Landmark health legislation of 2010, for short

9 Many a home with a circular driveway

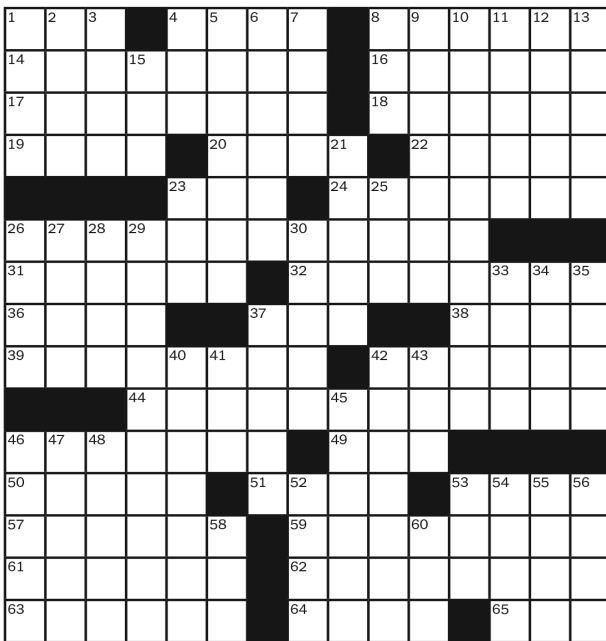
10 Swiss tourist destination

11 Xbox expert, say

12 Speak grandly

13 Church council

15 See 17-Across



PUZZLE BY RUTH BLOOMFIELD MARGOLIN

21 Western resort town on the Roaring Fork River

23 Married mlle.

25 See 26-Across

26 Drains

27 ___ large

28 Robert ___, longtime Disney C.E.O.

29 Score keeper?

30 Blades that don't cut ... but that are themselves cut

33 King or queen

34 Pants, in slang

35 Levelheaded

37 See 44-Across

40 Wife of Theseus

41 Fish that's poisonous unless cooked

42 Made a bid of

43 "That's not fair!"

45 Neighbor of Francia

46 Office notes

47 Hi, in HI

48 Bird that "quoth" in a Poe poem

52 Atop

53 Inits. in a 1955 union merger

54 "___ walks like a duck ..."

55 See 59-Across

56 Working without ___

58 Popeye's Olive

60 Simile's center

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BIZARRO



DENNIS THE MENACE

