

# A Trojan Horse

By Jim Jacoby

*In 1968 Dallas financier, Ira Corn, decided to fund a full-time professional team for the express purpose of returning the Bermuda Bowl to the USA. The first two players to be selected for this project were and Bobby Wolff. It did not take long for the goal to be fulfilled.*


*Jim Jacoby won the Bermuda Bowl in 1970 and 1971, the World Mixed Teams in 1972 and the World Team Olympiad in 1988. He was also one of the most widely syndicated bridge columnists in the USA. Unfortunately he died in 1993, a couple of years before his sixtieth birthday.*

You bridge players do a lot of humdrum and routine work. Consequently it's very easy for you to be lulled into that well-known false sense of security. Of course, in theory you should play your heart out on every deal, but as a practical matter you just don't.

It helps to get the adrenaline going, but how do you do it? This is a problem you must solve individually. But perhaps I can help with a tale from an old legend.

In Virgil's Aeneid, the soothsayer Cassandra warned the Trojan warriors: 'Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes.' (I fear the Greeks, even bearing gifts.) Nevertheless, the soldiers of Troy took the gift of the wooden horse into their city. Virgil little knew that his story could assist bridge players thousands of years later. Yet, with due acknowledgement to that ancient poet, my tip to you is 'Beware bridge players bearing gifts.'

There is a wealth of deals with Trojan horse themes. Here is one from a recent knock-out teams final at a US regional tournament:

East Deals N-S Vul	♠ K 2 ♥ K Q 7 3 ♦ J 10 2 ♣ K Q 4 2	♠ J 10 7 5 4 ♥ 9 5 4 ♦ A K Q 9 ♣ 6	
♠ Q 9 3 ♥ J 10 6 2 ♦ 6 5 ♣ J 9 8 5			
	♠ A 8 6 ♥ A 8 ♦ 8 7 4 3 ♣ A 10 7 3		
West	North	East	South
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 ♣
1 ♠	2 ♠	Dbl	Pass
Pass	3 NT	Pass	2 NT
		All pass	

Declarer won the three of spades lead with dummy's king and cashed the king and queen of clubs. When East showed out on the second club there were only eight tricks. But declarer sent his wooden horse to the gates of Troy. He led the jack of diamonds from dummy. East, a good intermediate player, surprised VuGraph onlookers by cashing out all four diamonds, so that the subsequent play of the ace of spades squeezed West in hearts and clubs.

Let this be my tip to you:

*When a good opponent seemingly gives you a present, stay alert! Watch for a trap!  
Beware bridge players bearing gifts!*