

# Clever card player keeps 'em guessing



I first became acquainted with Perry Johnson of Farmington Hills a score or more so years ago when he was becoming a talent to reckon with at the table. In those days, his bidding was somewhat inventive and such invention on occasion caused catastrophes. In defense of this style, Perry had an uncanny confidence in his presence and position at the table and the aggressive nature of his way succeeded because of a remarkable ability to play his pastboards extremely well. Actually Perry just loved to bid and his methods took full advantage of preempts and modest high card holdings. Shaped hands were treated with similar regard if he felt they had extensive playing power and this sometimes left a partner and always his opponents trying to solve a first class Agatha Christie mystery about his bidding. The dynamic world class Zia Mahmood champions this accelerated fast moving style that leaves everyone wondering, but one can't discredit the exceptional results which support his exciting techniques.

A couple of years ago Perry did something in my opinion that was truly remarkable. He sought out the expertise and experience of a world class champion to discipline and season him in expert play. Not that he hadn't already tested such table behavior and academics from earlier days of national play, but now the desire was motivated to prove competence, not to gratify his psyche. I believe Steve Landen of Southfield, a superb player in his own right, may have helped Perry resolve that determination. As Steve recently said, "Perry's the type who must have purpose and he is to be very good at anything he has an interest in."

That champion was the affable Jeff Meckstroth and the development of their partnership has been unprecedented and rewarding for both. In the spring of '91, they came very close to capturing the prestigious Cavendish World Invitational Classic, one of the most grueling two-day pair games staged each year.

Then this spring everything fell in place in Pasadena and they ran away with the NADO Open Pairs, winning the event by better than three boards. That's somewhat like Count Fleet's 15-length victory at the '41 Belmont Stakes.

I asked Perry for one of his favorite hands and as you could expect, it is a witty bit of Johnson fancy which took a pinch of good luck and produced a pound of glory.

Perry	W	N	E
1A	4W	4A	—
4NT(1)	—	5♦(2)	—
6A	—	—	—
(1) RKC (2) One Control			
Both Vulnerable			
♠ 8 8 4 3	♠ 8 8 4 3	♠ 8 8 4 3	♠ 8 8 4 3
♥ 5	♥ 5	♥ 5	♥ 5
♦ K 8 7 6	♦ K 8 7 6	♦ K 8 7 6	♦ K 8 7 6
♣ A 10 8 3	♣ A 10 8 3	♣ A 10 8 3	♣ A 10 8 3
♠ A Q J 10 9 8 4 3	♠ A Q J 10 9 8 4 3	♠ A Q J 10 9 8 4 3	♠ A Q J 10 9 8 4 3
♥ Q	♥ Q	♥ Q	♥ Q
♦ Q J 7 6	♦ Q J 7 6	♦ Q J 7 6	♦ Q J 7 6
♣ A Q 10 7 6 5	♣ A Q 10 7 6 5	♣ A Q 10 7 6 5	♣ A Q 10 7 6 5
♠ A 2	♠ A 2	♠ A 2	♠ A 2
♥ A 10 5	♥ A 10 5	♥ A 10 5	♥ A 10 5
♦ K 9	♦ K 9	♦ K 9	♦ K 9
W. led ♥ K			

North made a fine call over West's pre-empt and kindled Perry's next call. Pre-empts crowd the bidding and gave N/S no room to explore. Under the circumstances four no trump, ace asking, was certainly the superior call as Perry's high cards were the quick taking type and some elevation above game in spades seemed reasonable.

It was luck that the missing high trumps were finessable. That West had the singleton diamond queen and Perry guessed it. That North had a singleton heart. Other than that, the hand was routine. Perry even said he would have been disappointed if he'd only won a dozen. Such confidence should be in the Smithsonian and it's one of the reasons he's a winner.

Woody Boyd teaches local bridge classes and is working toward becoming a life master. He lives in Bloomfield Township.

# Hotlines to phone for helping seniors

Here's a list of toll free numbers that may be of help and interest to older adults and their families. These toll free hotlines may be able to assist the callers in finding the information they require.

**Social Security Assistance**  
1-800-772-1213  
Hospice  
1-800-331-1630  
**Energy Assistance**  
1-800-292-5650  
**Cancer Information Center**  
1-800-422-6237  
**Arthritis Foundation**  
1-800-283-7800  
**Taxpayers Information (Federal)**  
1-800-829-1040  
**Taxpayers Assistance (State)**  
1-800-487-7000  
**American Council for the Blind**  
1-800-424-8666  
**American Diabetes Association**  
1-800-232-3472

**American Paralysis Association**  
1-800-225-0292  
**American Parkinson's Disease Association**  
1-800-223-2732  
**Auto Repair Complaints**  
1-800-292-4204  
**Alzheimer's & Related Disorders Center**  
1-800-272-3900  
**Citizens for Better Care**  
1-800-292-7852

The phone numbers above are provided by Renee Mahler, who writes the On Aging column for the Observer & Eccentric. She is a gerontologist and the director of communications and admissions at a Rochester Hills nursing facility. Mahler is a member of the Michigan State Commission on Services to the Aging. Send your questions to her at Observer & Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

## FASHION CALENDAR

### FRIDAY, JULY 24

**Wardrobe workshop**  
DKNY Autumn '92 Wardrobe Workshop will take place 9-11 a.m. In Active Sportswear, first floor of Saks Fifth Avenue, 2901 Big Beaver, Troy. Workshop will include continental breakfast. To RSVP, call 643-9000, ext. 267.

### Trunk show

Hesh's on the Boardwalk will be hosting a Vakkio Trunk Show July 24-26. Vakkio, one of New York's finest manufacturers of leather and suede sportswear, will be featuring its fall and winter collection at

Hersh's, 6901 Orchard Lake Road, south of Maple Road, in Boardwalk Shopping Plaza. The Vakkio Trunk Show will be on display 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, July 24; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 25; and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 26.

### Fall collection

A three-day trunk show, featuring the Hino & Malee Fall 1992 Collections, runs through July 25 at Roz & Sherm, in the Bloomfield Plaza at Telegraph and Maple roads, Bloomfield Township. The Lisa Jenks 1992 jewelry collection will also be featured during the show.

### Cole Haan

Trunk show of new fall line of women's Cole Haan shoes, shown by sales representative James Gorski, at Roz & Sherm at Bloomfield Plaza in Bloomfield Township. Also, Friday-Saturday, July 24-25.

### MONDAY, JULY 27

### Autumn collection

Informal modeling of Emmanuel Ungaro Autumn '92 Collection will take place 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (also on Tuesday, July 28) in the Designer Salon, second floor of Saks Fifth Avenue, 2901 Big Beaver, Troy.

### TUESDAY, JULY 28

### Chanel Boutique

Chanel Boutique and Accessories Fall/Winter '92 Collection Show will take place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the International Designer Salon, Birmingham Apparel Store, 336 W. Maple.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

### Bloss Autum wear

Informal modeling of Bill Bloss Autumn '92 Collection will take place 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (also Thursday, July 30, and on Aug. 1) in Designer Salon, second floor of Saks Fifth Avenue, 2901 Big Beaver, Troy.

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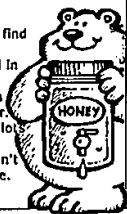
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