

Daily Bridge Club

Simple Saturday

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Simple Saturday columns focus on improving basic technique and logical thinking.

“We have reason to believe the victim was stabbed,” a police report stated perceptively. “A sharp object was protruding from his chest.”

Inferences from the bidding and play are available on most every deal, and defenders must act on them. In today’s deal, North-South played at four spades after North opened 1NT in third position. West led the ten of diamonds: jack, queen, ace.

10 TRICKS

Declarer next led the king of trumps, and West took his ace and continued with the nine of diamonds. South won in dummy, drew trumps and ran the hearts for 10 tricks.

West missed an easy inference. South had not opened the bidding but had the ace of diamonds, clearly the K-J of spades and maybe the queen of hearts. He was most unlikely to have the ace of clubs. If West shifts to the king and six of clubs, he can ruff the third club for down one.

North-South would have done better to play at 3NT.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A 7 2 ♥ 10 4 3
♦ 10 9 8 6 2 ♣ K 6. The dealer, at your left, opens one spade. Your

partner doubles, you respond two diamonds and he then bids two hearts. What do you say?

ANSWER: Since partner doubled before bidding a suit, he promises substantial extra strength. You have seven points when you might have had none, three-card heart support and a possible ruffing feature in clubs. If you trust your partner, bid four hearts.

South dealer

N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ Q 6 3
♥ A K J 6
♦ K J 3
♣ Q J 10

WEST

♠ A 7 2
♥ 10 4 3
♦ 10 9 8 6 2
♣ K 6

EAST

♠ 5 4
♥ 9 8 5 2
♦ Q 7 5
♣ A 7 5 2

SOUTH

♠ K J 10 9 8
♥ Q 7
♦ A 4
♣ 9 8 4 3

South

Pass
3 ♠

West

Pass
Pass

North

1 NT
4 ♠

East

Pass
All Pass

Opening lead – ♦ 10