

Daily Bridge Club

Sending a woman

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"A good definition of 'gross ignorance,'" Wendy, my club's ardent feminist fumed to me in the lounge, "has to be 144 men congregated in the same room."

"So you and Cy are still having problems on defense," I sighed.

Wendy thinks God made Adam as a rough draft; Cy the Cynic, a shameless chauvinist, thinks God created Eve so Adam would have somebody to hand him the remote. The two are relentless adversaries even when they cut each other as partners in our penny games.

"Defending with that man is an ordeal," Wendy bit out.

Wendy and Cy were today's East-West. North-South were playing a "weak notrump," and South's 1NT promised 12 to 14 points. Against 3NT, Cy led the three of diamonds. Declarer won with the jack and let the jack of hearts ride, and Wendy took the queen and returned the nine of diamonds: six, deuce, ace.

South next led a club to his ace and passed the nine of hearts. Wendy won and swiftly led her last diamond – and declarer produced the king. He led a club to dummy's queen, ran the hearts and took two more clubs. Making four.

"Why didn't you shift to spades?" the Cynic wanted to know.

"If you want to defeat the contract," Wendy growled, "send a woman to get the job done."

What did she mean?

Wendy's defense would have been correct if South had held K 6 4 3, J 9, Q J 6, A K 9 4. On the second diamond, Cy should follow with the queen, denying possession of the king. Then when Wendy wins her second heart trick, she will know that a spade shift is the only hope for the defense.

South dealer

N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ J 7 5
♥ A 10 8 6 4
♦ A 10
♣ Q 10 6

WEST

♠ A K 10
♥ 7 3 2
♦ Q 8 4 3 2
♣ 9 8

EAST

♠ Q 8 2
♥ K Q 5
♦ 9 7 5
♣ 7 5 3 2

SOUTH

♠ 9 6 4 3
♥ J 9
♦ K J 6
♣ A K J 4

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 NT	Pass
3 NT(!)	All Pass		

Opening lead – ♦ 3