

Daily Bridge Club

Insurmountable?

By **FRANK STEWART**

Tribune Content Agency

“We are confronted with insurmountable opportunities.” – Pogo.

Declarer’s task at today’s four spades seems insurmountable: He has three diamonds and a trump to lose. A diamond opening lead would let the defense prevail, but West isn’t up to leading the king from K-9; he leads a low heart.

In my club’s penny game, South took the ace of hearts and cashed the A-K of trumps. East discarded, so South went down one. Could he surmount his problem?

COMPRESS

South can compress his four losers into three. He must ruff a heart at Trick Two, then cash the top trumps. When East shows out, declarer takes the A-K of clubs, ruffs a club in dummy, ruffs a heart and leads his last club.

West can’t gain by ruffing with his high trump – dummy would pitch a diamond – so West discards, and dummy ruffs. South has won nine tricks. He ruffs dummy’s last heart, winning his 10th trick when West must follow. The defenders’ trump trick and diamond tricks clash on the last three tricks.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠5 ♥K95 ♦AQ642
♣Q985. The dealer, at your left,

opens one spade. Two passes follow. What do you say?

ANSWER: You must not sell out to one spade; your side may have a makeable partscore or game. Double. A few players would double one spade in the direct position, but in the “balancing” position, to double is clear. Partner must realize that you may have stretched to act to prevent the opponents from buying the contract cheaply.

South dealer

Both sides vulnerable

NORTH

♠ 8 7 6 2
♥ A J 8 3
♦ 8 7 3
♣ 7 4

WEST

♠ Q J 4
♥ Q 10 7 4 2
♦ K 9
♣ J 3 2

EAST

♠ 5
♥ K 9 5
♦ A Q 6 4 2
♣ Q 9 8 5

SOUTH

♠ A K 10 9 3
♥ 6
♦ J 10 5
♣ A K 10 6

South

1 ♠
4 ♠

West

Pass
All Pass

North

2 ♠

East

Pass

Opening lead – ♥4