

Daily Bridge Club

If at first ...

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Cy the Cynic's former job, if any, is a topic of speculation at my club.

"I think Cy worked in a corporate office," Rose told me. "He says if at first you don't succeed, the person they hire to replace you will."

Cy played at seven spades, and West led the queen of diamonds. Cy took the ace ... and pondered what to discard. He finally threw the jack of clubs. Cy then ran his trumps and took the A-K of clubs, but West kept his hearts and won the 13th trick.

"The club finesse would've won," the Cynic sighed.

FOURTH CLUB

Cy's play at Trick One was wrong, but he could have survived: He could cash the A-K of clubs and ruff a club, setting up dummy's nine. But Cy's best play is to ruff the first diamond, deferring a discard on the ace. He draws trumps and takes the A-K of clubs. When the queen doesn't fall, Cy leads a heart to dummy, throws the jack of clubs on the ace of diamonds and ruffs a club.

If the clubs don't produce three tricks, Cy runs his trumps. He has many chances to succeed.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ 8 6 5 ♥ 7 2 ♦ K 8 7 4 2 ♣ Q 6 5. Neither side vulnerable. The dealer, at your left, opens three

spades. Your partner doubles, and the next player passes. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner's double is for takeout, so do your duty and bid four diamonds. He suggests a strong hand with diamond support, and you have a five-card suit and a useful queen. You should have a chance for at least 10 tricks.

North dealer

N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ J 9 4

♥ A K 4

♦ A 9 6

♣ 9 7 3 2

WEST

♠ 7

♥ J 9 8 3

♦ Q J 10 5 3

♣ 10 8 4

EAST

♠ 8 6 5

♥ 7 2

♦ K 8 7 4 2

♣ Q 6 5

SOUTH

♠ A K Q 10 3 2

♥ Q 10 6 5

♦ None

♣ A K J

North

1 ♣

3 ♠

4 ♦

5 ♥

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

Pass

South

2 ♠

4 ♣

4 ♠

7 ♠(!)

West

Pass

Pass

Pass

All Pass

Opening lead – ♦ Q