

Daily Bridge Club

Procrastination pays

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“He’s the world’s worst procrastinator,” Rose told me in the club lounge. “He says anything worth doing would’ve been done already.”

Rose was talking about Cy the Cynic, of course.

“Cy says he’s trying to improve,” I said. “He told me he’s putting off procrastinating as long as possible.”

Cy’s tendency to delay often helps him as declarer; he waits to draw trumps. In a team match, both Souths played at four spades, and West led the king of hearts; dummy’s ace won. One South then took the A-K of trumps. East discarded, and South had four sure losers.

HEART RUFFS

Cy was declarer in the replay and put off drawing trumps ... permanently. He ruffed a heart at Trick Two, took the A-K of clubs, ruffed a heart, went to the ace of diamonds and ruffed a heart.

Having won the first seven tricks, Cy exited with a club. East took the K-Q of diamonds, but Cy was left with dummy’s A-8-6 of trumps opposite his K-J-10. With the defense to lead, he was sure of the last three tricks.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ Q 7 3 ♥ K Q J 7 5
♦ 10 9 4 ♣ 8 6. Your partner opens

one club, you respond one heart and he bids one spade. The opponents pass. What do you say?

ANSWER: This problem is awkward. To pass would be timid; partner might hold A K 5 2, A 6 3, 2, A J 7 5 2. A raise to two spades despite lacking four-card support and a bid of 1NT despite the diamond weakness are possible. Rebid two hearts. You would prefer a six-card suit, but no call is ideal.

North dealer

N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ A 8 6
♥ A 10 8 4
♦ A J 5
♣ K 9 4

WEST

♠ Q 7 3
♥ K Q J 7 5
♦ 10 9 4
♣ 8 6

EAST

♠ 5
♥ 9 6 2
♦ K Q 7 3
♣ Q J 10 5 2

SOUTH

♠ K J 10 9 4 2
♥ 3
♦ 8 6 2
♣ A 7 3

North
1 NT

East
Pass

South
4 ♠

West
All Pass

Opening lead – ♥ K