

Daily Bridge Club

The whole loaf

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Cy the Cynic says that half a loaf is better than no idle time at all. Cy is like many players: As declarer, he is lazy; he adopts the first line of play he sees, especially if it looks easy.

In my club's penny game, Cy played at four spades. West led a trump, and Cy won with dummy's king and led a club, finessing with his queen. West took the king and led a second trump.

The Cynic won and tried a heart to dummy's queen. That finesse lost also, and Cy finished with only nine tricks: five trumps in his hand, a club, a heart and two ruffs in dummy.

EFFORT

Cy makes his game with more effort. At Trick Two he must concede a diamond. He wins the trump return in dummy, ruffs a diamond and finesses in hearts, losing. If East returns a club, Cy's queen loses to West, but Cy wins the heart return with the ace, ruffs a diamond, ruffs a heart in dummy and ruffs a diamond.

Cy can then take the ace of clubs, ruff a club and cash dummy's good fifth diamond for his 10th trick.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ K 8 3 2 ♥ A Q
♦ 7 6 5 3 2 ♣ 7 4. The dealer, at your left, opens one heart. Your partner doubles. The next player passes.

What do you say?

ANSWER: If you held K 8 3 2, 3 2, A Q 5 3 2, 7 4, you would jump to two spades to invite game with nine useful points. After the opening bid at your left, your queen of hearts may be useless. Bid one spade. An "advance" of 1NT would show some strength, but your hand will almost surely play better at spades.

North dealer

N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ K 8 3 2

♥ A Q

♦ 7 6 5 3 2

♣ 7 4

WEST

♠ 7 6

♥ J 9 8 4

♦ A K 4

♣ K J 10 8

EAST

♠ 5 4

♥ K 10 6 5

♦ Q J 10 9

♣ 9 6 2

SOUTH

♠ A Q J 10 9

♥ 7 3 2

♦ 8

♣ A Q 5 3

North

Pass

2 NT

East

Pass

Pass

South

1 ♠

4 ♠

West

Dbl

All Pass

Opening lead – ♠ 7