

Daily Bridge Club

Plot twist

By **FRANK STEWART**

Tribune Content Agency

Cy the Cynic says that as you go through life, you should take time to think about the other fellow: He may be plotting something.

In my club's penny game, Cy was South, and he and North bid easily to 6NT with their 33 points. West led the ten of diamonds, and Cy won in dummy and led a heart. East played the five, and the Cynic offered his king.

Unfortunately for Cy, West was Ed, my club's best player. Ed played low smoothly. Cy led a club to dummy and returned a second heart to his queen, and Ed played low again.

THIRD HEART

Cy then led another club to dummy and a third heart. He was dismayed when East showed out, and Ed took the ace and ten for down one. Cy would make the slam if he finessed with dummy's jack of spades, but for all he knew, East had the queen of spades and the ace of hearts.

Ed defended well. Since he had seven points, he knew Cy held every missing point. To duck the first two heart leads couldn't lose and might (and did) induce Cy to go wrong.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ Q 10 6 ♥ A 10 3 2
♦ 10 9 8 ♣ J 5 2. The dealer, at your left, opens one diamond.

Your partner doubles, you respond ("advance") one heart and he bids two hearts. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner has a strong hand. He couldn't afford to raise with a minimum hand since you might have had no points and four ragged hearts. Since you have seven useful points, game is possible. If you trust partner, bid three hearts. He might hold A J 9 4, K Q 8 4, 3, A Q 4 3.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ A J 5
♥ 8 6 4
♦ A Q J 4
♣ A Q 10

WEST

♠ Q 10 6
♥ A 10 3 2
♦ 10 9 8
♣ J 5 2

EAST

♠ 9 8 4 2
♥ 7 5
♦ 6 5 2
♣ 8 7 4 3

SOUTH

♠ K 7 3
♥ K Q J 9
♦ K 7 3
♣ K 9 6

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	6 NT	All Pass

Opening lead – ♦ 10