

Daily Bridge Club

Simple Saturday

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Simple Saturday columns focus on improving basic technique and logical thinking.

In the club lounge, Cy the Cynic remarked to me that studies indicate that people use only 15% of their brain.

“It makes you wonder what they do with the other 75%,” Cy muttered.

I can’t begin to explain why declarer at today’s six spades settled for only a 50% chance. When West led a trump, declarer drew trumps and led a diamond from dummy for a finesse with his queen. West took the king and returned a diamond. South took his four club tricks to discard a heart but was obliged to lose a heart at the end.

12TH TRICK

If South combines his chances in the red suits, he makes his slam 75% of the time. After he draws trumps, he leads a heart toward dummy’s queen. When West has the king, South has his 12th trick.

If instead East took the king of hearts and returned a heart, South would win and run the clubs to discard his last heart. He would make the slam if the diamond finesse worked.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ Q 7 6 2 ♥ Q 6 5
♦ 9 7 ♣ A K 9 5. Your partner opens one diamond, you respond one

spade, he bids two clubs and you raise to three clubs. Partner bids three diamonds. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner has extra strength, else he would have stopped at three clubs, and he suggests six diamonds and four clubs. Don’t try 3NT with flimsy major-suit stoppers or jump to five clubs when both of your queens may be worthless. Bid four clubs.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ Q 7 6 2
♥ Q 6 5
♦ 9 7
♣ A K 9 5

WEST	EAST
♠ 10 9 8	♠ 5
♥ K J 7	♥ 10 9 4 2
♦ K 10 6 5 2	♦ J 8 4 3
♣ 10 6	♣ 8 7 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A K J 4 3
♥ A 8 3
♦ A Q
♣ Q J 4

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
6 ♠	All Pass		

Opening lead – ♠ 10