

Daily Bridge Club

Playing the lottery

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Cy the Cynic is a confirmed bachelor – so that a missing button on his shirt means buying a new shirt.

“Think you’ll ever re-marry?” I asked Cy in the club lounge.

“Marriage is like playing the lottery,” he growled, “except that you can’t tear up your ticket if you lose.”

Cy is apt to operate as declarer as if buying a lottery ticket. When he played at today’s 3NT, West led the seven of spades, Cy put up dummy’s queen, and East played the three.

TOP TRICKS

Cy had eight tricks: a spade, three hearts, a diamond and three clubs. Two diamond finesses might see him home, so Cy led dummy’s jack. East played the queen, and Cy took the ace and cashed his high clubs in case of a 3-3 break. When West showed out, the Cynic led another diamond. East won, cashed his jack of clubs and led a spade. Down two.

Cy missed his best play. At Trick Two he leads a club from dummy, and when East follows low, Cy plays the eight. West wins, but Cy wins four club tricks and nine tricks in all.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ Q 4 ♥ A 5 ♦ J 9 5 4 ♣ A Q 9 7 5. You open one club, and your partner responds one heart. The

opponents pass. What do you say?

ANSWER: A rebid of two clubs would suggest a six-card or longer suit (or at least a much stronger five-carder). A bid of two diamonds would be a strength-showing “reverse.” Bid 1NT. Your distribution isn’t precisely balanced, but you will stay low and provide partner with a reasonably accurate picture of your hand.

South dealer

N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ Q 4

♥ A 5

♦ J 9 5 4

♣ A Q 9 7 5

WEST

♠ A J 8 7 2

♥ 9 6 2

♦ 7 6 2

♣ 10 3

EAST

♠ 10 9 3

♥ J 10 8 3

♦ K Q

♣ J 6 4 2

SOUTH

♠ K 6 5

♥ K Q 7 4

♦ A 10 8 3

♣ K 8

South

1 NT

West

Pass

North

3 NT

East

All Pass

Opening lead – ♠ 7