

Daily Bridge Club

Horsing around

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My friend the English professor told me about a colleague in the Philosophy Dept. who owns a thoroughbred. He thought of retiring and spending time at the track but decided to continue teaching philosophy.

“He put Descartes before the horse,” the prof said.

Some players put drawing trumps first when they must wait. Today’s West led a heart against four spades, and East won and led the jack of diamonds. South won with the king and started the trumps, and East took his ace and led another diamond, forcing out dummy’s ace. South drew trumps and led the jack of clubs, but East won and cashed a diamond. Down one.

ACE OF CLUBS

South had to put the horse first. He wins the first diamond in his hand and leads the jack of clubs, losing. He wins the next diamond, takes the king of clubs and leads the queen.

East ruffs, but South overruffs, ruffs a heart in dummy and leads the high ten of clubs. East can ruff but with the ace, and South pitches his diamond loser and wins the rest.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ J 9 8 4 ♥ 10 ♦ A 8 4 ♣ K Q 10 6 3. Your partner opens one heart, you bid one spade and he

raises to two spades. What do you say?

ANSWER: This decision is close, and to pass and hope for a plus score would be reasonable. Since you have a possible source of tricks in clubs, bid 2NT. Partner will raise to 3NT with a hand such as A 10 2, K 9 8 4 2, K 7, A 9 2. With four-card spade support and a distributional hand, he will bid three or four spades.

East dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ J 9 8 4
♥ 10
♦ A 8 4
♣ K Q 10 6 3

WEST
♠ 6 3
♥ K 9 4 2
♦ Q 6 3
♣ 9 8 7 5

EAST
♠ A 7
♥ A J 8 6 5
♦ J 10 9 7
♣ A 4

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10 5 2
♥ Q 7 3
♦ K 5 2
♣ J 2

East	South	West	North
1 ♥	1 ♠	2 ♥	4 ♠
All Pass			

Opening lead – ♥ 2