

Daily Bridge Club

Waiting in line

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"The older I get," a club player told me, "the fewer things I'm willing to wait in line for."

I can sympathize – nobody likes long lines – but when you're declarer, impatience can be your downfall.

In today's deal, West led the queen of hearts against four spades, and South won with the ace and, rather impatiently, led the ace and a second trump. He hoped to extract all the missing trumps, but West took the queen and East discarded.

West then led the jack of hearts. South won and started the diamonds, but West ruffed the third diamond with his king of trumps and cashed a heart and a club. Down one.

WRONG PLAY

A Murphy's Law corollary: The longer you stand in a line, the greater the chance that it's the wrong line. And the more impatient your play, the more likely it is to be wrong.

After South takes the ace of trumps, he should lead diamonds. West ruffs the third diamond and leads another heart, but South wins in dummy and discards his last heart on the fourth diamond.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠KQ7 ♥QJ10 ♦84 ♣K10763. Neither side vulnerable. The dealer, at your left, opens one

club. Your partner doubles. The next player passes. What do you say?

ANSWER: To pass for penalty is tempting, but since your club holding is broken, the opener may take several club tricks. Pursue your own contract. Bid 2NT, invitational. The play will go well when the location of the missing high cards is known, so you might well try 3NT.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ 10 8 2
♥ K 8 4 2
♦ A K 10 6
♣ J 4

WEST

♠ K Q 7
♥ Q J 10
♦ 8 4
♣ K 10 7 6 3

EAST

♠ 6
♥ 7 6 5
♦ 7 5 3 2
♣ A Q 9 8 2

SOUTH

♠ A J 9 5 4 3
♥ A 9 3
♦ Q J 9
♣ 5

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	All Pass		

Opening lead – ♥ Q