

Daily Bridge Club

Simple Saturday

By FRANK STEWART

Tribune Content Agency

Simple Saturday columns focus on basic technique and logical thinking.

Experience may be what makes you hesitate before you go ahead and goof up. It shouldn't require much experience – or card sense – for today's declarer to make 3NT.

South won the first spade with dummy's ace and next took the A-K of diamonds: The suit would break 2-2 about 40% of the time, and the queen would fall singleton occasionally. But as it was, West discarded a club, and East won the third diamond. He shifted to the queen of hearts, and the defense took five heart tricks.

NINE TRICKS

South should have hesitated before he attacked the diamonds. He needs only four diamond tricks for nine in all; what he can't afford is for East to get in. A heart shift through the king may be fatal.

At Trick Two, dummy leads a diamond, and when East plays the eight, South follows with the nine – an "avoidance" play. As the cards lie, he can make overtricks; but even if West won, the contract would be safe.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ 4 2 ♥ Q J 10 9 3 ♦ Q 10 8 ♣ 9 8 3. Both sides vulnerable. Your partner opens one

heart, and the next player doubles. What do you say?

ANSWER: The opponents may own this deal, so you want to take away their bidding room and make it hard for them to find their best contract. Bid three hearts, weak and preemptive. With a good hand, you would choose a different call such as a redouble. If you held 4 3 2, Q J 10 9 3, Q 10 8 3, 9, you would bid four hearts.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A Q 7
♥ 6 5 2
♦ J 5 3 2
♣ A 7 4

WEST
♠ J 10 9 8 6
♥ A 8 7
♦ 7
♣ Q 10 5 2

EAST
♠ 4 2
♥ Q J 10 9 3
♦ Q 10 8
♣ 9 8 3

SOUTH
♠ K 5 3
♥ K 4
♦ A K 9 6 4
♣ K J 6

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Opening lead – ♠ J