

Daily Bridge Club

A slap on the back

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Cy the Cynic observes, with great sagacity, that when you have a choice, you should always consider your options.

In my club's penny game, Cy was today's North. South could have done well to pass Cy's 3NT, but South's hand didn't suggest playing at notrump.

Against four spades, West led a heart, and South ruffed and had options. He could cash the A-K of spades and A-Q of clubs, ruff a heart and take the queen of trumps. If trumps broke 3-3, South would safely score his K-J of clubs for 10 tricks.

HIGH TRUMPS

But since that play might fail if trumps broke 4-2, South chose a different line that was almost a lock. He took the A-Q of clubs and ace of diamonds and started a crossruff, ruffing his K-J of clubs with dummy's high trumps. He scored all seven of his trumps plus three side-suit tricks.

Cy doesn't pay compliments lightly – he says even a mosquito doesn't get a slap on the back until it accomplishes something – but he rightly complimented South's good dummy play.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A K ♥ J 6 4 3 2
♦ A 6 4 3 ♣ A Q. You open one heart, your partner responds 1NT,

you bid two diamonds and he tries three clubs. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner has six or seven clubs but fewer than 10 high-card points. If he has an ideal hand such as 7 6 5, 8, K 5, K J 10 8 7 5 3, he can make six clubs. Partners rarely have a perfect hand, but you can certainly bid five clubs or, if he will treat it as a try for slam, three spades.

East dealer
N-S vulnerable

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

WEST
♠ 6 4
♥ 9 8 7
♦ K Q 8
♣ 10 8 7 5 4

EAST
♠ 8 7 5 2
♥ A K Q 10 5
♦ J 9
♣ 9 2

SOUTH
♠ Q J 10 9 3
♥ None
♦ 10 7 5 2
♣ K J 6 3

East	South	West	North
2♥	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	2♠	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

Opening lead – ♥ 9