

Daily Bridge Club

Basket case

By **FRANK STEWART**
Tribune Content Agency

Cy the Cynic maintains that it's a bad idea to put all your eggs in one basket; he says they will last longer in the refrigerator. But Cy is as lazy as an old boar; as declarer, he is apt to rely on the first line of play he notices.

In my club's penny game, Cy played at today's four hearts, and West led a spade. East took the king and ace and shifted to a trump. Cy drew trumps and saw nothing more than to lead a club and finesse with dummy's queen. East took the king and returned the jack, and his ten won the setting trick.

THIRD TRUMP

Cy put all his eggs in one leaky basket. He gets a second chance if he wins the third trump in dummy and leads a low diamond. If East puts up the queen and returns a diamond, the Cynic takes the jack and later pitches two clubs on dummy's A-K.

If West had the queen of diamonds, Cy would still win 10 tricks if the club finesse worked.

Even Cy would admit that two chances are better than one. When you are declarer, look for extra chances.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ Q 9 ♥ Q 4 3 2
♦ A K 6 4 ♣ A Q 3. The dealer, at your right, opens one spade. You

double, and your partner responds ("advances") two hearts. What do you say?

ANSWER: You must recall that partner had to act. His minimum response promises neither any points nor good hearts. With many 18-point hands, you might raise to three hearts, but your actual hand may be worth only about 16; your queen of spades is probably worthless. Pass.

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ Q 9
♥ Q 4 3 2
♦ A K 6 4
♣ A Q 3

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

EAST
♠ A K 6
♥ 10 7 5
♦ Q 10 8 2
♣ K J 10

SOUTH
♠ 10 7 4
♥ A K J 8 6
♦ J 3
♣ 9 5 2

North	East	South	West
1 NT	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	All Pass		

Opening lead – ♠ 3