

Daily Bridge Club

Open mouth, insert foot

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“My partner is always fair and reasonable,” a fan’s email states. “He approaches every problem with an open mouth. If I goof, or make what he considers a goof, I hear about it.”

As today’s North, my fan opened one club and bid 1NT over his partner’s one-spade response. South then leaped to four spades.

“West led a heart: three, king, ace. My partner led a diamond to dummy, let the jack of trumps ride, ruffed a diamond and led the A-Q of trumps. East won and returned a heart, and West took the ten and queen. The club finesse lost later: down one.”

SINGLETON

“My partner roasted me for my 1NT bid with a singleton spade. Was my bidding that bad?”

North’s bid was fine. Furthermore, South could have wrapped up four spades. After the jack of trumps wins, South can ruff a diamond and reach dummy with high clubs to ruff two more diamonds. He has won eight tricks, and when he exits with a club or heart, the defense can’t stop him from scoring his A-Q of trumps for two more.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A Q 10 9 6 3 ♥ A J 9
♦ Q ♣ 7 5 2. You open one spade, your partner responds two hearts, you

rebid two spades and he bids 3NT. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner’s two hearts promised a five-card or longer suit. He would never be obliged to respond two hearts on a four-card suit. He would always have an option, even a temporizing response in a three-card minor. Bid four hearts. Some players would have raised partner’s two hearts to three.

North dealer

N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ J
♥ 7 6 4 3
♦ A 8 7 2
♣ A K J 3

WEST

♠ 8 2
♥ Q 10 8 5
♦ K 10 9 6 4
♣ 9 4

EAST

♠ K 7 5 4
♥ K 2
♦ J 5 3
♣ Q 10 8 6

SOUTH

♠ A Q 10 9 6 3
♥ A J 9
♦ Q
♣ 7 5 2

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	4 ♠	All Pass

Opening lead — ♥ 5