

## Daily Bridge Club

# A deal of note

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“Didn’t you study classical music?” Cy the Cynic asked me in the club lounge.

“Voice and musicology,” I admitted, “but that was a lifetime ago.”

“Well, you’ll appreciate this,” Cy said. “Three notes walk into a bar: C, E-flat and G.”

“And?”

“The bartender told them he didn’t serve minors,” Cy guffawed.

Today’s deal struck a chord with me. Cy was declarer at 3NT. He won the first club with the ace, grimacing at the 5-0 break, and led the queen of diamonds: seven, eight, deuce. When Cy next led to dummy’s ten, East took the jack and led the queen of hearts, and the Cynic won only eight tricks.

Could you make some music at 3NT?

### TWO DIAMONDS

At Trick Two, Cy can lead his low diamond to dummy’s ten. If East plays low, dummy returns a diamond, and Cy is sure of two diamonds, two spades, two hearts and three clubs.

If East wins the first diamond with the jack and shifts to hearts, Cy wins and overtakes his queen of diamonds with the king to guarantee nine tricks.

### DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ J 10 9 7 ♥ Q J 10 7  
 ♦ A J 6 3 2 ♣ None. Your partner

deals and opens one spade. The next player passes. What do you say?

**ANSWER:** No response is perfectly descriptive. A jump to four spades would suggest a weaker hand in high cards and certainly not first-round control of two side suits. Many players would jump to four clubs, a “splinter” response to show spade support and club shortness. You have a slam if partner holds only A K 8 5 4 2, A 6 3, 4, 8 7 6.

South dealer  
 N-S vulnerable

#### NORTH

♠ 8 5 3  
 ♥ 9 8 2  
 ♦ K 10 9 8  
 ♣ K 5 2

#### WEST

♠ Q 6 2  
 ♥ 6 5 3  
 ♦ 7 5  
 ♣ J 10 9 8 7

#### EAST

♠ J 10 9 7  
 ♥ Q J 10 7  
 ♦ A J 6 3 2  
 ♣ None

#### SOUTH

♠ A K 4  
 ♥ A K 4  
 ♦ Q 4  
 ♣ A Q 6 4 3

<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Opening lead — ♣ J