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Bridge column by Frank Stewart

18th Feb 2011

Dealer: South Vul : N-S	NORTH ♠732 ♥ 52 ♦8732 ♣A652	
WEST ♠J6 ♥ 74 ♦ KJ94 ♣J10983		EAST ♠ A108 ♥ K1083 ♦Q106 ♣ KQ7
	SOUTH ♠KQ954 ♥ AQJ96 ♦ A5 ♣4	

North	East	South	West
--	--	1 Spade	Pass
Pass	1 NT	2 Heart	Pass
2 Spade	Pass	3 Heart	Pass
4 Spade	All Pass		

Opening lead - ♣ J

Today's South should have stopped at two spades; North might have been broke. But South tried for game, and North liked his ace.

South took the ace of clubs, led a heart to his jack, cashed the ace and led a third heart. West promptly ruffed in with his jack of trumps and led another club. South ruffed, led another heart and ruffed in dummy when West discarded.

LAST TRUMP

South next led a trump ... eight from East, nine. He led the king of trumps to East's ace, ruffed the club return, drew East's last trump and claimed 10 tricks.

A patient defender beats four spades. West must discard on the third heart. South ruffs in dummy, leads a trump to his king and leads a fourth heart. Now West ruffs with the jack and leads a club. South ruffs but can't get back to dummy. He loses two trumps to East's A-10 plus a diamond.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A 10 8 ♥ K 10 8 3 ♦ Q 10 6 ♣ K Q 7. Your partner opens one diamond, you bid one heart and he jumps to three diamonds. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner has six (or seven) diamonds and a hand worth 16 to 18 points. Slam will be cold if he has 6, A 6 2, A K J 8 5 4, A 5 3 and may succeed opposite K 6 2, 2, A K J 8 5 4, A 5 3. If you're sure he won't pass, raise to four diamonds. (Many experts would treat that bid as forcing.) Otherwise, bid 4NT, Blackwood.

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