

BRIDGE | Frank Stewart

Counsel from a sign standing sentinel by a church in my town: "God Doesn't Have a Plan B."

Today's declarer found that just one plan wasn't enough. Against four spades, West led a trump (he figured dummy's club suit wouldn't be too productive), and South won and tried a diamond to the king, seeking ruffs in dummy.

East took the ace and led a second trump, and South led another diamond. West won and led his last trump, and though South threw a heart on the ace of clubs, he lost two more diamonds. Down one.

■ Club Trick

After declarer put up the king on the first diamond, Plan A was hopeless, and there was no time to try Plan B. South must cash the king of clubs before he leads a diamond, reserving the chance of setting up a club trick.

When East takes the ace of diamonds and leads a trump, South wins with dummy's nine, takes the ace of clubs, ruffs a club, leads a trump to the king and ruffs a club. He can cash the top hearts and take the good club for his 10th trick.

■ **Daily Question:** You hold: ♠ K 9 2; ♥ A 4 2; ♦ K 5; ♣ A 10 9 6 3.

You open one club, your partner bids one spade, you try 1NT and he jumps to three hearts. The opponents pass. What do you say?

■ **Answer:** It's easy to return to spades (you should certainly show your three-card support instead of persisting with notrump). Since you have a fine hand with a spade honor, bid four spades. You'd try a noncommittal bid of three spades with a hand such as ♠ 10 8 7, ♥ A 4 2, ♦ K 5 2, ♣ A Q 6 3.

South Dealer
N-S vulnerable

North

♠ K 9 2
♥ A 4 2
♦ K 5
♣ A 10 9 6 3

West

♠ 7 6 5
♥ Q 10 7
♦ Q 10 9
♣ Q J 7 5

East

♠ 4 3
♥ J 9 8 6
♦ A J 8 3
♣ 8 4 2

South

♠ A Q J 10 8
♥ K 5 3
♦ 7 6 4 2
♣ K

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3♣	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Opening lead - ♠ 7

2NT 26/2/09