

## By His Own Petard

TO THE EDITOR:

One of the dangers of writing articles for *The Bridge World* is that partners read them.

Imps  
North dealer  
North-South vulnerable

NORTH (*dummy*)  
♠ K 7 5 3  
♥ Q 8 7 6  
♦ A K 10 9  
♣ 8

WEST (*me*)  
♠ J 8 4  
♥ 5  
♦ J 6 5 3 2  
♣ Q 7 5 4

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
—	—	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	(All Pass)

Sitting West, I led a count-showing club. Partner won with the king and switched to the spade queen: nine, four, king. Declarer took dummy's top diamonds, ditching a club on the second; then, he ruffed a diamond and played a low trump, ducking in dummy. Partner took the jack, king and ace of hearts as I pitched two clubs. Partner continued with the spade six, and South, still in the throes of queen-of-spades deception, finessed the ten, losing to my jack. Somewhat sleepily, I exited safely with the diamond jack, on which partner discarded the ace of clubs.

That woke me up, but it was too late.

NORTH  
♠ K 7 5 3  
♥ Q 8 7 6  
♦ A K 10 9  
♣ 8

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

EAST  
♠ Q 6 2  
♥ A K J  
♦ Q 8 4  
♣ A K 3 2

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

In the ending, I had needed to lead my club queen, forcing dummy to ruff before spades were unblocked. Partner's discard was a castigatory ace (see the March 2018 issue). It cost nothing, as declarer could not have lost the contract once I led the diamond.

Several chances had been missed before my blunder. Declarer could easily have made the contract (with an overtrick) by ruffing clubs in dummy, or by playing the ace and another spade instead of finessing the ten. Partner could have circumvented this possibility by underleading in clubs so I could continue diamonds, but with jack-ten-four of spades, I might have preferred a lead in that suit, so East placed South with the ten of spades (and, being human, he hoped that his spade trickery would pay off). East's decision not to enter the auction probably did not cost; if he had doubled one diamond (being too strong for one notrump) and South had passed, I would have advanced two clubs, and the only thing higher than one notrump that we can make is two diamonds.

However one evaluates the earlier actions, I made the final mistake.

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