

Daily Bridge Club

Louie misses out

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Unlucky Louie is beset with misfortune – the kind of fortune, he says, that never misses. When I watched today’s deal in my club’s penny game, Louie played at four hearts. Cy the Cynic was West and led a spade.

Louie won in dummy and let the nine of trumps ride. He grimaced when Cy produced the king.

“Cheer up,” Cy told Louie. “Things always get worse before they fall apart completely.”

Sure enough, Cy shifted to a club, and East took the ace and jack and led a second spade. Louie won and drew the missing trump, but East’s king of diamonds won the setting trick.

CLUB SHIFT

As usual, Louie brought misfortune on himself. Since East surely has the ace of clubs, Louie doesn’t want West to get in for a club shift. Louie should take his ace of trumps at Trick Two – he doesn’t mind if East wins a trump trick – then finesse in diamonds.

East wins and leads another spade, and Louie wins and runs the diamonds. He discards two clubs before West can ruff and lead a club.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ Q J 10 7 5 ♥ 7
♦ K 8 4 ♣ A Q J 8. Your partner opens one spade. The next player

passes. What do you say?

ANSWER: Your hand is way too strong to jump to four spades. Slam is possible if partner has a useful heart holding, but if he has say, K-Q-x, his honors will be “wasted” opposite your singleton. Your best bid is a “splinter” jump to four hearts, showing spade support and heart shortness. Let partner judge how well your hands fit.

East dealer

N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ K 9
♥ 9 8 5 4
♦ A Q 10 9 5
♣ K 7

WEST

♠ 8 4 3 2
♥ K 3
♦ 7 3 2
♣ 9 6 5 2

EAST

♠ Q J 10 7 5
♥ 7
♦ K 8 4
♣ A Q J 8

SOUTH

♠ A 6
♥ A Q J 10 6 2
♦ J 6
♣ 10 4 3

East	South	West	North
1 ♠	2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥
All Pass			

Opening lead – ♠ 8