

## Daily Bridge Club

# Unchanging luck

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Unlucky Louie has beaten his head against Wall Street for years.

“How are your stocks faring?” I asked Louie in the club lounge. I knew he had positions in three companies: one makes light switches, one makes writing implements and the third deals in baby products.

“Light switches are off,” Louie said gloomily, “and pens and pencils are down a few points.”

“What about your diaper stock?”

“It’s unchanged,” Louie shrugged.

Louie’s “bad luck” was unchanged in today’s deal. At four hearts, he ruffed the third spade (not best defense) and led the A-K of trumps.

### DOWN ONE

When East discarded, Louie cashed his king of clubs, overtook his jack with the queen and threw a diamond on the ace. He then tried a diamond to his queen – and lost a diamond and a trump for down one.

After Louie takes the ace of trumps, he can cash the K-J of clubs, then lead a low trump. He forces a trump entry to dummy and discards his five and queen of diamonds on the A-Q of clubs, assuring the contract.

### DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A K J 7 3 ♥ Q 6 3  
♦ K 8 7 ♣ 10 7. The dealer, at your right, opens one diamond. You

overcall one spade, and your partner bids three spades. What do you say?

**ANSWER:** You might have acted with less, and your king of diamonds looks well placed, but you must pass. Partner’s jump-raise is preemptive; he has a shapely hand but few high-card values. If he had a good hand and wanted to try for game, he could have cue-bid two diamonds.

South dealer

N-S vulnerable

#### NORTH

♠ 9 6 2

♥ J 10 5

♦ 6 3 2

♣ A Q 6 3

#### WEST

♠ A K J 7 3

♥ Q 6 3

♦ K 8 7

♣ 10 7

#### EAST

♠ Q 10 5

♥ 9

♦ J 10 9 4

♣ 9 8 5 4 2

#### SOUTH

♠ 8 4

♥ A K 8 7 4 2

♦ A Q 5

♣ K J

South

1 ♥

4 ♥

West

1 ♠

All Pass

North

2 ♥

East

Pass

**Opening lead – ♠ K**