

Daily Bridge Club

Double shifts

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"Isn't Unlucky Louie ever lucky?" a fan asks. "His woes in your column seem unending."

Louie isn't really so unlucky: The problem is that Lady Luck won't work double shifts for him.

Louie played at 3NT after West opened one heart. Louie won the heart opening lead with the jack and next let the eight of clubs ride. East took the queen and returned a heart, and West won and led a third heart. When Louie led another club, West produced the ace and cashed two hearts. Down one.

"If I go after the diamonds instead," Louie sighed, "I still win only eight tricks."

OVERTIME

Louie asked Lady Luck to work overtime. On the first club, he must play dummy's king; West surely has the ace for his bid. Then Louie finesses in diamonds, winning four diamonds, two hearts, two spades and a club.

West can't prevail by rising with the ace on the first club to clear the hearts. Then Louie can lose a club to East's queen and will have four clubs, two hearts, two spades and a diamond.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ K 10 4 ♥ K J 4
♦ A Q 10 9 4 ♣ 8 2. You open one

diamond, and your partner bids one spade. What do you say?

ANSWER: To rebid the diamonds or bid 1NT would not be an error, but a bid of two diamonds would suggest a longer suit, and 1NT with two low clubs is unattractive. Raise to two spades. Partner will often have five spades – he did not respond in a red suit – and suggesting a trump suit promptly will simplify the auction.

West dealer

N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ A 6

♥ Q 10 5

♦ J 5

♣ K J 10 9 6 3

WEST

♠ Q 9 3

♥ A 9 8 6 3

♦ K 6 3

♣ A 5

EAST

♠ J 8 7 5 2

♥ 7 2

♦ 8 7 2

♣ Q 7 4

SOUTH

♠ K 10 4

♥ K J 4

♦ A Q 10 9 4

♣ 8 2

West	North	East	South
1 ♥	2 ♣	Pass	3 NT
All Pass			

Opening lead – ♥ 6