

Daily Bridge Club

Impatient play

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Unlucky Louie has raised nine children. He says you can learn a lot from your kids – especially patience. If Louie has acquired any patience at home, it doesn't show at my club.

Playing at five clubs, Louie ruffed East's second high spade and hastily drew trumps. He next led a heart. West signaled with the nine, and East let dummy's king win. Louie came to his ace of diamonds and led a second heart to dummy's queen, but East took the ace and led a third spade. Louie ended with eight tricks.

FOOLISH

When Louie drew trumps early, he was not only impatient but foolish. At Trick Three he should lead a heart to dummy's king. If East ducks, Louie leads a trump to his hand and a second heart: deuce, queen, ace.

If East leads a third spade, Louie ruffs in dummy and ruffs a heart high. He draws trumps ending with dummy's queen and takes the rest with good hearts and the ace of diamonds.

Do what you must do first. Do what you want to do later.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A K J 9 4 ♥ A J 10 ♦ 6 3 ♣ 10 9 8. You open one spade, your partner bids two hearts, you raise to three hearts and he bids four

clubs. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner's four clubs is an ace-showing cue bid to suggest slam. Whether you should cooperate is a judgment call. You have good hearts and the A-K of spades, but to cue-bid four spades, you must go beyond game. I would bid four hearts; I would not criticize four spades.

South dealer

E-W vulnerable

NORTH

♠ 6 3
♥ K Q 8 6 5 4
♦ 5
♣ Q 7 6 2

WEST

♠ Q 10 7 5 2
♥ 9 2
♦ K J 10 7 4
♣ 5

EAST

♠ A K J 9 4
♥ A J 10
♦ 6 3
♣ 10 9 8

SOUTH

♠ 8
♥ 7 3
♦ A Q 9 8 2
♣ A K J 4 3

South

1 ♦
2 ♣
5 ♣

West

Pass
3 ♠
All Pass

North

1 ♥
4 ♣

East

1 ♠
Pass

Opening lead – ♠ 5