

68A

David's deal

Excerpt from "On the Other Hand" by David Bird & Larry Cohen

	♠ K J 8 2											
	♥ A J 3											
	♦ Q 6											
	♣ Q J 5 2											
♠ 10 7 4 3	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ –	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ 5		♥ Q 10 9 8 4 2										
♦ A K J 10 9 7		♦ 8 2										
♣ 9 6		♣ A 10 8 7 4										
	♠ A Q 9 6 5											
	♥ K 7 6											
	♦ 5 4 3											
	♣ K 3											

West

2♦

all pass

North

dbl

East

pass

South

4♠

West opens with a natural weak-two in diamonds. He leads his top diamonds and continues with the ♦J. What is your plan for the spade game?

You have a club loser to come, so you cannot afford to lose this trick. You must ruff with the ♠J to prevent an overruff from East. Suppose you carelessly play the ♠K next. Much to your surprise, East (who began with only two of the eight missing diamonds) will show out. You will not be able to pick up West's remaining ♠1074 and will go one down.

It is easy enough to pick up all four trumps in either hand. You need to play the ♠A (from the hand with two equal-value honors remaining) on the first round. If East shows out, as here, you continue with a finesse of the ♠8. If instead West shows out, you cross to the ♠K and finesse the ♠9. Once you have drawn trumps, you can set up the clubs for a heart discard.

UNDERSTAND WHY

West's 2♦ bid suggests a six-card suit, so you ruff the third round of diamonds high. Even though West is unlikely to hold four trumps with the long diamonds, you should play safe by leading a trump to the ace. You can then pick up four trumps in either hand. Your potential heart loser will be thrown on the clubs.

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