

68B

Larry's deal

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

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

West	North	East	South
			1♠
2♦	3♦	pass	3♠
pass	4♠	all pass	

Most players do not use the Jacoby 2NT in competition. North shows his sound raise or better with a 3♦ cue-bid. He continues to game after South's sign-off. How will you play when West again leads three rounds of diamonds?

If you ruff with dummy's ♠K or ♠10, this will promote a trump trick for East. The eventual heart loser will then put you down one. A different technique is needed on this layout. You must discard a heart from dummy on the third round of diamonds. Whatever West does next, you will be able to draw trump and ruff a heart in the dummy. You will score four side-suit winners, five trump tricks and one heart ruff.

The technique is known as 'trading ruffs'. You swap a dangerous diamond ruff for a safer heart ruff.

UNDERSTAND WHY

West is expected to hold six diamonds for his two-level overcall. If you ruff the third round in the dummy, there is a good chance that East will score a trump trick, as well as a late heart trick. By discarding a heart on the third diamond, you avoid losing two possible tricks (one in trumps and another in hearts).