

4A

Larry's deal

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On the Other Hand

	♠ A K J 3		
	♥ A 8 2		
	♦ 8 5		
	♣ 6 5 4 3		
♠ 5	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ 7 6 4 2	
♥ Q J 10 9 5		♥ K 4 3	
♦ J 9 6 4		♦ Q 10	
♣ A Q 10		♣ J 8 7 2	
	♠ Q 10 9 8		
	♥ 7 6		
	♦ A K 7 3 2		
	♣ K 9		

West	North	East	South
			1♦
1♥	dbl	2♥	2♠
pass	4♠	all pass	

West leads the ♥Q against your spade game and you can see one heart loser and a possible two further losers in clubs. If you can establish the diamond suit, you will be able to make the game.

Should you draw trump after winning with dummy's ♥A? No. You will go down even if you draw just one round of trump at the start. You should play your main side suit, diamonds, straight away. You will need dummy's trump suit for ruffing diamonds, also for returning to the South hand.

You play the ♦AK, all following, and trump a diamond with the ♠A, to prevent an overruff. When East shows out, you see that you will need to trump another diamond. You lead the ♠3 to the ♠8 and trump a diamond with the ♠K. You then lead the ♠J to the ♠Q and draw East's remaining trumps with the 10 and 9. You lose just one heart and two clubs.

UNDERSTAND WHY

Your plan is to establish the diamond suit. Drawing any trump at the start would be disastrous. You play the ♦AK and ruff two diamonds with the ♠A and ♠K. Only then do you draw trump.