

## 68A

## David's deal

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

<p>♠ 10 7 4 3 ♥ 5 ♦ A K J 10 9 7 ♣ 9 6</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; 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		<p>♠ – ♥ Q 10 9 8 4 2 ♦ 8 2 ♣ A 10 8 7 4</p>	<p>♠ A Q 9 6 5 ♥ K 7 6 ♦ 5 4 3 ♣ K 3</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											

**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.**