

♠♥♦♣ A FAVOR FROM THE OPPONENTS ♠♥♦♣

West is the dealer and opens 1♦. There follows, two passes, and it's up to you:

S	South
♠	AKQ62
♥	K6
♦	543
♣	Q73

You have an easy 1♠ overcall. West passes and partner gives you a limit raise to 3♠. Since you have more than you needed for your overcall, you accept the invitation to game and bid 4♠.

West leads the ♦Q. What is your plan?

N	North
♠	9843
♥	753
♦	AK6
♣	AJ2

West leads ♦Q

S	South
♠	AKQ62
♥	K6
♦	543
♣	Q73

The first thing you should notice is there are lots of points in the dummy. In fact, you hold 26 HCP between you. Since West opened, his partner can't have more than 1 or 2 points. You also know that all the missing honors are in West. And that means that the finesse of the ♥K is going to lose and you have 4 losers that aren't going away; the 2 hearts, the diamond and the club. You can finesse once in clubs, but the second time you try it, you have to lead the ♣Q and West will cover with the ♣K and still leave you with the club loser.

The only way of making your game is to somehow to end-play West. Make it so West must lead the heart to you or lead some other suit that will give you a ruff and a discard of one of those losers. Any ideas?

To be safe, you duck the first trick. If you wait until the 3rd diamond trick to give up the lead, East might win with one of his high spot cards and lead a heart through you. West will continue with the ♦J and you win the ♦K and pull trump, ending in your hand. You lead a club up to the ♣J and play the ♣A and the ♦A. Now is the time to throw West in with your last club. He has to either lead a heart, setting up your ♥K as a winner; or lead another diamond, which you will ruff in the dummy and discard a losing heart from your hand.

This is the full deal:

D 16		N North	WES	NOR	EAS	SOU
		♠9843	1♦	P	P	1♠
		♥753	P	3♠	P	4♠
		♦AK6	P	P	P	
		♣AJ2				
W West	E East					
♠J105	♠7					
♥AQ10	♥J9842					
♦QJ92	♦1087					
♣K85	♣10964					
		S South				
		♠AKQ62				
		♥K6				
		♦543				
		♣Q73				
4♠ South NS: 0 EW: 0						

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/y63d6agz> , Or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.