A V A PART SCORE SCRAMBLE A V A A

East deals and passes. This is your hand:



You only have 8 HCP and you are in second position. Of course, you pass. Your LHO opens 1 ◆ and your partner doubles. East responds 1 ♠ and it's back to you:

You have a free bid. This means that you could pass and thereofore, if you bid, you are showing more at the absolute minimum 0-6 points. You have two 4-card minor suits and it's always in your interest to bid if you can. You should advance $2 \clubsuit$. If West rebids $2 \spadesuit$, you will be happy to defend.

Your 2♠ bid gets passed out. Now, the only problem is taking 8 tricks.

West leads the ♠J. Your dummy comes down:



Lead: ♠J



You know a lot about the defender's hands. First, count the points between you and dummy. You have a total of 22 HCP. Since West opened with about 12, East can have only about 6 HCP. Three of them reside in the ♠K.

Since East overcalled 1♠, he should have 5 Spades, making West's ♠J lead a singleton. The two missing Aces have to reside in West's hand.

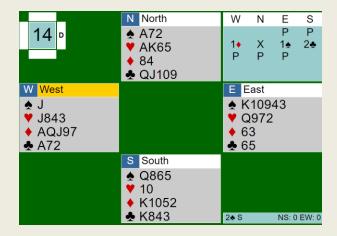
You also know West's exact distribution. He doesn't have a 5-card Heart suit and his Diamonds are longer or equal to his Clubs. Therefore, his hand should be something like 1=4=5=3, or 1=4=4=4. Because he didn't rebid his Diamonds, he doesn't have six of them.

When your trumps are 4-4, you have a choice of hands to consider the Master Hand – the hand in which you count losers. Here, North is the better hand to consider the Master Hand.

You have 2 Spade losers, but since you know the ♠K is in East, you can finesse the ♠Q for an extra trick. But you can't do that until West is void of his trump. Your 2 Heart losers can be ruffed in South. The Heart distribution is known to be 4-4-4-1, so you won't be over-ruffed. You have to lose the 2 Diamonds and if Clubs behave, you only have 1 losers there. If all goes as planned you should take 9 tricks.

Your plan should be to win the ♠A and lead a Club to your ♠K. West will most likely win this trick and switch to Hearts. Win this and put West back in the lead with a Diamond. He will probably continue Hearts. Win in the Dummy and discard a Spade. Now, ruff a Heart loser and go back to the dummy in Clubs and ruff the 2nd Heart loser. Give up another Diamond and ruff West's Diamond return in the Dummy. Pull the last Club and lead a Spade to your hand. East will win the ♠K but must return another Spade to your ♠Q. You have now taken 9 tricks: 2 Spades, 2 Hearts, 2 Heart ruffs, and 3 Clubs.

This is the entire deal:



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You can se	e how this hand shou	uld be played by	clicking on this	s link:	
button on	url.com/2m4ldepb or c the bottom to advanc hands, click on the v	ce through each	trick. If you do	n't want to see t	
	ely, by clicking on "P hand on your own.	lay" you can pla	y all four hands	and see if you	can
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