

## Tough Ruff by Roger Lord

**Dealer:** East  
**Vul:** None

	<b>North</b>		
	♠ A964		
	♥ J103		
	♦ KJ10		
	♣ AQ2		
<b>West</b>		<b>East</b>	
♠ 10		♠ K732	
♥ AQ87		♥ 954	
♦ Q96432		♦ A	
♣ K4		♣ J10973	
	<b>South</b>		
	♠ QJ85		
	♥ K62		
	♦ 875		
	♣ 865		
<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>
Pass	Pass	1 Diamond	1 Notrump
Double	Pass	2 Diamonds	Pass
Pass	2 Spades	All Pass	
<b>Contract: Two Spades</b>		<b>Opening Lead: Diamond Four</b>	

On this deal from a SLBC session, both sides had problems. At one table, West in third seat opened one diamond, North overcalled one notrump, East doubled for penalty, and South passed. West feared that his light opener had placed his partner in jeopardy, so he pulled the double to two diamonds. (The most likely result of one notrump doubled, with the club jack opening lead, would have been one down.)

The auction floated around to South, who reopened with two spades. South was confident that his partner would not leave the contract in two spades if he had held just a doubleton spade, inasmuch as South had not bid spades (or transferred) directly over the double. With a fitting four card spade holding, North passed. East refrained from doubling two spades.

On the opening lead of the diamond four, dummy's ten lost to East's ace. East shifted to the nine of hearts, South played low, and West won his queen. West continued with the ace and a third heart, taken by South's king, as East followed down the line. South advanced the spade jack, West followed with the ten, and the jack held the trick.

East had set a trap by ducking the first spade. Here, an attempt to pick up the rest of the spade suit would have doomed declarer, who would have found himself short of entries needed to take two minor suit finesses. Declarer carefully avoided the trap—instead, he made use of his position in the South hand by taking a finesse of the club queen. Now, declarer called for the spade ace, noting that West showed out, and continued a spade, East winning with the king. East gave back the lead to North's club ace. Declarer drew the last trump with his queen and finished the hand by taking a "known finesse" of dummy's diamond jack and cashing the king for the eighth trick and the contract.

