

# Charge Account

David J. Weiss

North		
West	S: AK4	East
	H: A932	
	D: 109	
	C: AKQ7	
South		
West	S: J9	East
	H: KQJ75	
	D: QJ762	
	C: 9	
North		
West	S: Q72	East
	H: 104	
	D: A853	
	C: 10862	
South		
West	S: J9	East
	H: KQJ75	
	D: QJ762	
	C: 9	

Neither vulnerable, IMP scoring

The auction:

North	East	South	West
2NT	P	3D*	P
3S**	P	4D	Dbl.
4S	P	5H	P
6H	P	P	P

\*Transfer

\*\*Super-acceptance of hearts

Trick 1: S 2, 4, 10, J  
Trick 2: H 7, 4, A, 6  
Trick 3: D 10, 4, Q, A  
Trick 4: C 2, A, 5, 9  
Trick 5: H 2, 8, K, 10  
Trick 6: S 9, 7, K, 3  
Trick 7: S A, S5, D7, SQ  
Trick 8: H 3, S, H Q, D3  
Trick 9: H J, D 5, H9, S8  
Trick 10: H 7, D8, D9, DK

Declarer claimed. Who gets the charge?

**Marshall Miles:** "It is entirely West's fault. If declarer has the king of diamonds, he has an obvious twelve tricks. So West must return a diamond at trick four."

**Steve Evans:** "This was a comedy of errors by the defensive pair. West is clearly the major culprit. After winning the diamond ace, the only conceivable trick would be partner's king. Also, West might ask himself why declarer ducked the spade in dummy when spade losers could be pitched on dummy's clubs. East, however, made the final mistake. He might have asked himself why partner was holding clubs and thus reasoned that partner had a club stopper. Then East could safely pitch clubs. East also might

have played the diamond king to trick 3, since partner figured to have the ace for the double. West, however, had a much easier play to beat the hand and should have done so."

Yes, West clearly gets the charge for his blind spot after winning the diamond ace. All that was required to get the right answer was to count declarer's tricks: 3 spades, 3 clubs, 5 hearts (if partner has a trump trick, fine), and the king of diamonds makes twelve. At the table, though, West, a fine player albeit somewhat excitable, reamed partner for pitching the diamond king. Did East have enough information to cover his partner's atrocity? Under pressure in the minors, East played partner for D: AJxxx, C: xxx. But since West was known to have the diamond eight by trick 10, East might have assumed that his partner would surely have fired back the diamond jack at trick 4 if he held it. On the other hand, East already knew his partner had erred, and it is difficult to make subtle inferences based on a play your half-asleep partner might have made.