

## You Might Be an Expert ...

Playing in six hearts there are eleven easy tricks. The twelfth might come from a diamond finesse (it works!), a club finesse against West (that works too!), or a club finesse against East (that fails). You might be an expert if you managed to go down in this contract.

Against six hearts West led the spade three to East's ace. Back came the spade two won in dummy, after which our expert declarer cashed two trumps only, then  $\heartsuit A$ ,  $\heartsuit K$ , followed by a diamond ruff. Now back to dummy with a trump and the last diamond was ruffed.

Let us pause to admire declarer's technique so far. The purpose of ruffing a diamond was to build a twelfth trick if the queen were to come down in three rounds. And, by ruffing that diamond before drawing the last trump, declarer had the timing to ruff the last diamond also. Thus he was able to discover that West had started with four diamonds. West had also started with three hearts. How about the spades? That suit looked to be 4-4 based on the opening lead and the play to the second trick, in which case West's original distribution was 4-3-4-2.

Decision time had arrived and, with West known to have two clubs and East four, the odds were two to one in favor of East holding the queen. So our unfortunate declarer finessed against East and went down two when West produced the  $\clubsuit Q$  and a spade winner.

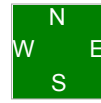
When this deal was played in a local club duplicate game, most declarers made twelve tricks ... a few went down one when they misguessed clubs ... but only one declarer was expert enough to ruff two diamonds, get a perfect count on the distribution, and then go down two. How expert were *you* on this deal?

### Board 19

South Deals  
E-W Vul

$\spadesuit$  9 7 4 3  
 $\heartsuit$  6 5 2  
 $\diamondsuit$  Q 10 9 4  
 $\clubsuit$  Q 9

$\spadesuit$  K J  
 $\heartsuit$  A Q 9  
 $\diamondsuit$  K J 6 5  
 $\clubsuit$  K 10 7 5



$\spadesuit$  A 8 5 2  
 $\heartsuit$  4 3  
 $\diamondsuit$  7 3 2  
 $\clubsuit$  8 6 3 2

$\spadesuit$  Q 10 6  
 $\heartsuit$  K J 10 8 7  
 $\diamondsuit$  A 8  
 $\clubsuit$  A J 4

West	North	East	South
			1 $\heartsuit$
Pass	2 $\clubsuit$	Pass	3 $\diamondsuit$
Pass	6 $\heartsuit$	All pass	

6  $\heartsuit$  by South

Lead:  $\spadesuit$  3