$_9$♠ K Q 9 6 3  ♥ 8 4 3  ♦ 3 2  ♣ A 8 5

N
W   E
S

$_{18}$♠ A 4  ♥ A K J T 9 2  ♦ K T 4  ♣ Q J

| W | N | E | S |
|------|------|------|------|
| – | – | PASS | 1♥ |
| PASS | 2♥ | PASS | 4♥ |
| all pass | | | |

Lead: 9♣.

*** 

The correct play is to draw one trump (both opponents follow) and then take care of spades (throw a club on Q♠). If spades are no worse then 2-6, we will lose 2 diamonds and one trump. Even if opponents ruff the third spade (we still throw away the club, unless it is a Q♥, in which case we overruff), they will (probably*) have no possibility to use the last trump.

∗ There is are slight chance that the lead was a singleton and opponents can now ruff (or overruff) the club, but that would mean that E started with:

$$♠ J 5 \quad ♥ 6 5 \quad ♦ J 5 \quad ♣ K T 9 6 4 3 2 \tag{5}$$

and in that case he would probably open 3♣ (or we are truly unlucky).

The second case is that E started with 3 trumps and a singleton diamond, but we counted 2 diamond losers anyway, so it does not matter if one of the diamonds ends up ruffed.

And what will happen if we decide to draw 2 trumps at the beginning? W follows only once, throwing out 6♦. If the third spade gets ruffed, E will play a trump, and we will have no more trumps in dummy to ruff a third diamond. But that is not the case here. W turns out to have only 2 spades, so we throw away the club on Q♠. And what now? We have to try finesse A♦. We play 2♦, E follows with 5♦, W takes the king with ace, and plays a diamond to E's jack or queen, E plays a Q♥ and we lost the contract. But what if we put T♦ instead of king? If ace is with E we will win anyway, if not, there is still chance W has AQ♦. He takes ten with the queen, and has no communication to partner, he must play a club, which we ruff and play K♦. W takes it with ace and plays a club again, we also ruff it and now we

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can ruff our third diamond (it does not matter if E overruffs, Q♥ will win a trick anyway).

Of course, if E would play jack to our 2♦, we would play king.

Both lines of play work out if A♦ is with E. Both lose, if spades are worse then 2-4 and hearts worse then 2-2. Both wins with the distribution as below. However, the first one wins also with Q♦ being with E, while W loses. So is there any distribution where the second play is superior? Yes, if hearts are 2-2 and spades are 5-1. However it is less possible then the Q♦ being with E.

The complete hand was:

<div align="center">

₉♠KQ963 ♥843 ♦32 ♣A85

N

₆♠82 ♥7 ♦AQ9876 ♣T972  **W**    **E**  ₇♠JT75 ♥Q65 ♦J5 ♣K643

S

₁₈♠A4 ♥AKJT92 ♦KT4 ♣QJ

</div>