Cards face-up problem:

$_9$♠ A Q 6 2 ♥ 9 7 6 5 ♦ Q ♣ J 9 4 2

$_3$♠ 9 8 7 3 ♥ J 4 ♦ J T 5 ♣ Q T 8 3   **W**   **E** $_9$♠ T ♥ Q 8 3 2 ♦ A 7 6 4 3 2 ♣ K 7

N

S

$_{18}$♠ K J 5 4 ♥ A K T ♦ K 9 8 ♣ A 6 5

W	**N**	**E**	**S**
PASS	PASS	2♦	2NT
PASS	3♣	PASS	3♠
PASS	4♠	all pass	

Lead: J♦. Is there any winning line of play?

***

Our goal is to end up with, losing, so far, at most 2 tricks.

♠ – ♥ 9 ♦ – ♣ J 9 4

N

♠ – ♥ J ♦ – ♣ Q T 8   **W**   **E**   ♠ – ♥ Q 8 3 ♦ – ♣ K

S

♠ – ♥ K T ♦ – ♣ A 6

With this distribution, we can play A♣, K♥ and 6♣. If W ducks, we win the 10$^{\text{TH}}$ trick with J♣. If he wins with Q♣, he is left with ♣ only so we will win the last trick as well (with J♣).

So how to achieve this distribution? Take whatever E plays (if it is a ♦ – throw away the ♥), ruff the third diamond and duck a club. Then, take whatever the opponents play (if they play ♣ or ♦ the contract is already secured) then draw trumps and here you are.

Do you agree with 2♦ bid? A possibility worth considering is 3♦ bid (vulnerabilities!). Also, the left opponent could raise the preempt.