

Sunday, December 15

Board 1

♠ 7 4
 East Deals ♥ 8 7 5 4 3
 N-S Vul ♦ K
 ♣ J 9 5 4 3

♠ A J 8 3		♠ 6 5
♥ A Q J 10		♥ K 6
♦ J 6 3		♦ Q 10 9 7 5
♣ 10 7		♣ A K 8 6
		♠ K Q 10 9 2

♥ 9 2
 ♦ A 8 4 2
 ♣ Q 2

EW 3N; EW 4♦; EW 2♠; EW 2♥; EW 2♣;
 Par -400

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 ♦	1 ♠
Dbl	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

while RHO still has a diamond entry. Had RHO made that crafty play at trick one, declarer would have to counter by playing low (another hold-up play). Now, the ♠ K is continued and declarer goes about his business, but with no overtrick this time.

Uncrafty Opponents by Larry Cohen

Bidding

This deal shows you the value of the negative double. I hope you used it. You should get to 3nt easily.

Play

When south plays the ♠ Q on trick one. declarer's hold-up play was textbook. With two entries to knock out, his only chance was that RHO didn't hold both of them. By ducking the first spade, the contract was guaranteed as long as the diamond honors were split.

Why the title of the deal (Uncrafty Opponents?). Because RHO missed a chance for a brilliant (crafty) play at trick one. Instead of playing the ♠ Q at trick one, he should have played the ♠ 9 (or 10). If declarer wins the jack and then plays diamonds, LHO has another spade to play when in with the ♠ K. Spades get cleared