

Sunday, December 22

Board 1

South Deals	♠ Q J 4 3		
E-W Vul	♥ A K Q 4		
	♦ 8 5 4		
	♣ 6 5		
♠ 8 7 6		♠ 5 2	
♥ 9 2		♥ 10 8 6 5 3	
♦ A K J 9 2		♦ Q 10 3	
♣ Q 8 2		♣ A 7 4	

	♠ A K 10 9		
	♥ J 7		
	♦ 7 6		
	♣ K J 10 9 3		

NS 4♠; NS 3♣; NS 1N; NS 1♥; EW 1♦;
Par +420

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♣
1 ♦	Dbl	2 ♦	2 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

The Clue is There by Larry Cohen

Larry has given us another hand to practice the negative double. However, the play is a bit tricky unless you are paying attention.

Bidding

After a 1♦ overcall, a Negative double guarantees at least 4 cards in both ♥ and ♠. Your 2♠ doesn't promise a big hand -- it is just as if you are "raising" 1♠ to 2♠.

Play

They take the first 2 diamond tricks and you ruff the third diamond. You might as well draw trumps--nothing else makes sense.

Leading the club to the KJ10 of clubs was, of course, the key play. If you expected the ♣A on your left, you would have tried the ♣J instead.

The clue was in the bidding. The key suit was clubs, and by the time the suit was played, the declarer should know that RHO has the ♣A.

What else could justify his raise to 2♦? You don't think he would raise to 2♦ with only 2 points, do you?