



and a club is ruffed. Now another diamond leaves West without recourse.

A trump lead is also unlikely to help, which leaves one of the aces. The ace of diamonds is a stronger selection. With the ♠K, East discourages, asking for a shift to leader's suit. Without the ♠K, East encourages a diamond continuation, which has two effects: removing dummy's entry and avoiding the disastrous spade shift.