

THINKING BRIDGE

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This is your penultimate lesson on card combinations, so pay attention. You need to know this stuff.

Dir: North Vul: N-S	NORTH ♠ Q 5 4 ♥ J 4 ♦ A Q 3 ♣ K 7 6 5 2		West	North	East	South
				1 Club	Pass	1 Heart
			3 Diamond	Pass	Pass	6 NT
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ 10 8 ♥ 10 8 7 ♦ J 10 9 8 7 5 4 ♣ A		EAST ♠ 9 7 6 3 2 ♥ Q 9 5 3 ♦ — ♣ 10 9 8 7	Opening Lead = ♦J			
	SOUTH ♠ A K J ♥ A K 6 2 ♦ K 6 2 ♣ Q J 3					

Bidding commentary: Some hands just don't lend themselves to scientific bidding. This is one of them. You do have 21 high-card points so you should have a play for 6NT. The one who knows, goes!

Play commentary: You have eight top tricks outside of clubs, a suit you must set up for four tricks. If clubs are 3-2, you are home free. If either player has four to the ace, you are a cooked goose. The one thing you can do something about is if one player has the singleton ace and you can arrange to have that player play second to the trick not leading an honor from your hand. As East is void in diamonds (he showed out at trick one), if anyone would have a singleton club it would be West, so win the opening lead in your hand and lead a low club. It's your best chance if clubs are not 3-2.