

THINKING BRIDGE (10)

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Dlr: West	♠ A 6
Vul: N-S	♥ Q 8 7 4 3 2
	♦ J 4 3 2
	♣ 3
	♠ 5
	♥ A K
	♦ K 7
	♣ A Q J 10 9 5 4 2

With only your side vulnerable, West opens 3♠, partner passes and East ups the ante to 4♠. You have no qualms about bidding 5♣, and everyone passes. The ♠Q is led. Plan the play.

Solution

You are in the dummy for the last time and have to decide whether to lead up to the ♦K or take the club finesse. The club finesse is much less than 50% because you can't pick up K-x-x(x) in the East hand. Play the odds and lead a diamond up to the king, a 50% play unless West started with a singleton diamond and didn't lead it - not too likely as most players lead singletons even when they don't have one. If the ♦K loses to the ace and today is your lucky day, the ♣K will drop under the ace (13%). You will make this contract about 55% of the time.

Even if you had eight clubs to the A-K-J-10, you should still lead a diamond at trick two as you have a reasonable chance of dropping the ♣Q (a little more than 50%) if the diamond king loses to West's ace. Two chances are better than one.

The full deal:

	♠ A 6	
	♥ Q 8 7 4 3 2	
	♦ J 4 3 2	
	♣ 3	
♠ Q J 10 8 7 4 3		♠ K 9 2
♥ 9 5		♥ J 10 6
♦ Q 6		♦ A 10 9 8 5
♣ K 8		♣ 7 6
	♠ 5	
	♥ A K	
	♦ K 7	
	♣ A Q J 10 9 5 4 2	