

THINKING BRIDGE (5)

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Dir: South	♠ J 6 4 3		
Vul: Both	♥ A 3 2		
	♦ Q J 3		
	♣ 10 4 2		
	♠ 7 5		
	♥ K Q J 8 7 5		
	♦ A 4		
	♣ A K 5		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
2♦	2♥	Pass	1♥
All Pass			4♥

West starts with the ♠A, ♠K and a low spade, East playing the 10, 8 and then the 9 when you play low from dummy. You ruff the third spade and play the ♥K, both following low. Now what? Plan the play.

The idea is to set up a diamond for a club discard, but there is a catch. After both follow to the first heart, it is safe to cash a second high heart from your hand. If East shows out, play the ♦A and a diamond and use the ♥A to get to dummy's high diamond for a club discard. Play the same if hearts are 2-2.

The catch occurs when West shows out and East has three hearts. If you play the ♦A and a diamond and West has a six-card diamond suit (likely) and East a doubleton, West wins the king and leads a third diamond for East to ruff. You can overruff, but you are stuck with a club loser; down one.

The trick is to lead a low diamond (the key play) after cashing the ♥K and ♥Q. West goes up with the ♦K, but can't give East a ruff because East still has another diamond. Whatever West returns, cash the ♦A, enter dummy with the ♥A and pitch a club on a high diamond.

If East turns up with all four hearts, run your hearts, reducing to the ♦A 4, and the ♣A K 5, dummy having the ♦Q J and the ♠10 4 2. Now play the ♠A, ♠K and the ♠5. West will almost certainly be down to the ♦K x and three clubs. If West has the ♣Q and fails to unblock or if West had the misfortune to be dealt both missing club honors, you lose one more trick, the ♠10 turning out to be a big card. **The full deal:**

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