

THINKING BRIDGE (8)

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Dlr: West ♠ 7 5 4 3
 Vul: Both ♥ 6 5 4
 ♦ 7 6 5
 ♣ 10 9 7

♠ K Q
 ♥ A Q 2
 ♦ 10 4
 ♣ A K Q J 5 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Dbl
Pass	1♠	2♦	3♣
All Pass			

With both sides vulnerable, West opens 1♦, partner, fearing the worst, passes. East responds 1♥ and you double. West passes and partner tries to bid 1♠ with confidence. East bids 2♦, you bid 3♣ and everyone passes. Partner can't believe it. West leads the ♦K and then the ♦A (king from ace-king in supported suits) and a third diamond to East's queen. Plan the play to show partner that no hand is too weak not to realize a plus score.

The idea is avoid losing two heart tricks. Of course, if East, the heart bidder, has the king, there will be no problem. But he may not. The way to discover who has the ♥K is to discover who has the ♠A! Drive out the ♠A after ruffing the third diamond high to stay in practice.

If West takes the trick with the ♠A, play East for the ♥K because he needs it to have enough to make a one-level response, although it can't hurt to cash the ♥A before leading a heart from dummy to your queen. Of course, you have drawn trumps before leading a heart to the queen.

If East takes the trick with the ♠A, play West for the ♥K. West needs the ♥K to have anything resembling an opening bid, Without the ♥K, the most West can have is 10 HCP, including three jacks.

If West has the ♥K, it must be singleton or doubleton as you cannot avoid two heart losers if West has three hearts to the king. If East shifts to a heart after winning the ♠A, go up with the ♥A, draw trumps, ending in dummy, and lead a low heart toward your queen intending to play low. The key is driving out the ♠A to determine who has the ♥K and play accordingly. **The full deal:**

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