

North

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♥ Q 10 9 8 6 5

♦ Q J 9 7

♣ 8 6 2

South

♠ Q J 6 5

♥ A K J 7 3 2

♦

♣ A Q 5

With both sides vulnerable you open 1♥ and here comes the chorus. West overcalls 2♥ showing spades and a minor, and partner raises to 4♥, East chimes in with 4♣, and counting partner to be short in spades you put an end to this nonsense by bidding 6♥

West leads the ♠3. Plan the play....

Well, you were right about partner being short in spades. But you still have two possible club losers to deal with. Of course, you can always take the club finesse, but not so fast. East clearly has the ♠A and West figures to have the ♠K. Keep in mind West does not have the ♦A K (he didn't lead the suit) making it even more likely he has the ♠K for his vulnerable 2♥ bid.

Discard a club from dummy at trick 1 and let East win the ace. East will surely switch to a club and now is the moment of truth. Win the ♣A, draw their lone trump and lead the ♠Q through West. Assuming West has the ♠K (he'll have it!) you can discard dummy's remaining club on the ♠J.

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♥ Q 10 9 8 6 5

♦ Q J 9 7

♣ 8 6 2

♠ K 10 8 3 2

♥

♦ A 10 5 4 3

♣ K 9 3

♠ A 9 7 4

♥ 4

♦ K 8 6 2

♣ J 10 7 4

♠ Q J 6 5

♥ A K J 7 3 2

♦

♣ A Q 5

As Declarer, when you have a strong holding in a suit missing the ace, and dummy has a void, you usually gain a trick (or two) by discarding a slow loser from dummy rather than trumping. The gain comes when you get to discard yet another loser or two on the honours in your hand that have been promoted after the ace wins on your right.

Another thought: as declarer, missing the ace-king in a side suit that is not led, assume the opening leader does not have both honours. In a suit contract, if a low card is led assume the ace is to your right and the king to your left, particularly if the opening leader has bid the suit. However, if third hand wins the trick with the king, assume he has the ace as well. Aces are seldom underled in suit contracts.