

♠♥♦♣ BEWARE THE GREEK GIFT ♠♥♦♣

Your partner dealt and opened 1♣. East overcalled 1♠ and bid comes around to you. You hold this hand:

S	undefined
♠	K8
♥	Q109764
♦	10
♣	10862

You have only 5 HCP and 4 Clubs for partner. You consider passing or raising to 2♣. Neither of these bids describe your hand. You can add 2 points for the 6-card Heart suit, so passing is an underbid. Your partner could have opened with a weak 3-card Club suit, so 2♣ might leave you in an untenable contract.

Showing your partner the only thing that is good about your hand (other than a singleton in East's suit) is bidding Hearts. 1♥ is high enough. It shows 5+ Hearts and 6+ total points.

After West's advance to 1♠, your partner raises you to 4♥. This becomes the final contract.

West leads the ♦Q and you see this dummy.

N	undefined
♠	74
♥	AKJ3
♦	KJ3
♣	AK73

West Leads: ♦Q

S	undefined
♠	K8
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A hasty Declarer, counting 2 Spade losers, 1 Diamond loser and 1 Club loser (assuming the Clubs behave), will cover the lead with the $\heartsuit K$, setting up the $\heartsuit J$ as opportunity to pitch one losing Spade reducing the losers to 3 and making the contract.

Unfortunately, this line of play, though seeming like a gift, leads to disaster. East wins the $\heartsuit A$ and returns the $\spadesuit Q$ through Declarer's $\spadesuit K$. The Defenders take the first 3 tricks. Although the Clubs did break 3-2, one Club had to be lost for a one trick set.

The more thoughtful Declarer realized the necessity to keep East off lead while the $\spadesuit K8$ remained vulnerable to attack. He simply ducks the first Diamond lead. Now, there was no way the contract can lose. If East ducks the trick, South will ruff the next Diamond and after he draws trump, use the remaining Diamond in the Dummy to discard one of the Spades. If East overtakes the initial lead with the $\heartsuit A$, they would capture the next two Spades, but the $\heartsuit KJ$ will allow the discard of two Clubs from Declarer's hand, thus eliminating of the Club loser. The contract will be made either way.

This is the entire deal:

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You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yn6drcuz>, or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. If you don't want to see the opponents hands, click on the white area in the South hand before you start.

Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.