## ◆▼◆◆ FINDING THE KING ◆▼◆◆

West is the dealer and passes. North opens 1♠ and East passes:



You have only 10 HCP, but you can give yourself 2 more for the 6-card heart suit. You should respond 1♥. Partner rebids 2♦ and you will respeat your hearts, showing 6 of them. But since you have almost enough points for game, you should jump to 3♥. Your partner rebids 4NT, asking for key cards. You only have the ♥K, so you respond 5♠. Partner takes you to 6♥. West leads the ♠Q. and you see this dummy:



West lead **♣**Q



West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	4NT	Pass	5 <b>♣</b>
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

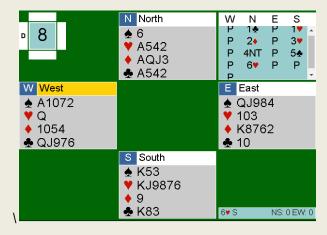
You have 3 spade losers, no heart or diamond losers, and 1 club loser. You can ruff 2 of the spade losers in the dummy if you don't have to pull trump more than twice. But, you must rid yourself of the club loser.

You would like to discard the club on the long diamonds. But how can you arrange that? You win the ♠A in the dummy, while East drops the ♠10. That looks like a singleton. You cash the ♥A. If West shows out, you can take the finesse against East's remaining heart. As it happens, they both follow suit and West drops the ♥Q. You can't afford a diamond loser because you have an unavoidable spade loser. Also, you will have to lead the ♦Q from the board and if East plays low and you discard your club, West could win the ♦K, and he will give his partner a ruff, You will be down 2.

What you really want to know is the location of the  $\bigstar$ K. You can infer the location by counting the cards you have already seen. West has shown up with the  $\bigstar$ Q and probably the  $\bigstar$ J. He also showed the  $\bigstar$ Q. If he has the  $\bigstar$ A in his hand, then he definitely doesn't have the  $\bigstar$ K. That would give him 12 HCP and he would have opened in 1<sup>st</sup> seat. So, you can lead the  $\bigstar$ K and see who wins it. This is called a discovery play. But first you must pull the last trump, preventing a club ruff if West does win the  $\bigstar$ A.

You lead a low heart to your ♥K and then lead the ♠K. West comes up with the ♠A and leads the ♠J. You win the ♠K and go up to the dummy with your ♦9 to the ◆A. You lead the ◆Q and East covers with the ◆K. You can ruff that and ruff a spade back to the dummy to play the ◆J, allowing you to discard your losing club. If East didn't cover, you would confidently discard the club, knowing it must be in East's hand.

This is the full deal:



You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link:

on your own.			
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