

♠♥♦♣ AVOIDING A DISASTER ♠♥♦♣

East dealt and passed. This is your hand:

S	South
♠	AK6542
♥	K63
♦	7
♣	A75

You open 1♠, LHO overcalls 2♦ and your partner raises you to 2♠. RHO passes and it's back to you. Having found a fit in spades, you normally make a Loser Trick Count. You have a 6 LTC hand – good enough to invite. You rebid 3♣. This is a help suit game try. You are telling partner that if he has help in Clubs he should raise to 4♠; otherwise just rebid 3♠.

Partner does raise to 4♠, which becomes the final contract.

West's leads the ♦K and you see this dummy:

N	North
♠	QJ3
♥	842
♦	A3
♣	K9642

West's Lead: ♦K

S	South
♠	AK6542
♥	K63
♦	7
♣	A75

Counting losers, you have 3 Heart and 1 Club loser in your hand. Your heart holding is interesting. If East gets in the lead he can lead a Heart through your ♥K. But if West is in the lead, your ♥K is protected. Therefore, you want to "Avoid" East getting in the lead.


Furthermore, your partner's 5-card Club suit can be developed for Heart discards. If the opponent's clubs break no worse than 4-1, you can get one Heart discard. If they break 3-2, you get two Heart discards.

The problem is, if you win the first trick with the ♦A and pull trump, you can ruff the ♦3. But when you set up the Clubs, East might be able to win the third Club. Then he

can switch to a high Heart and you can lose the 3 Hearts before you get to set up the Clubs for discards.

This calls for an *Avoidance Play*. You can ensure that East doesn't win a Club by ducking the first Diamond lead. You can win whatever West leads for Trick 2. If he leads a heart, your ♥K becomes a winner. Any other suit can be won in hand. You can pull trump for two rounds, ending in the dummy. Then you play the ♦A and discard a Club. Now you can ruff the 3rd Club and go back to the dummy in Spades and play the last two Clubs, discarding two of your losing Hearts. With the lie of the cards, you should make an overtrick.

This is the entire deal:

		N North		W	N	E	S
		♠ QJ3				P	1♠
		♥ 842		2♦	2♠	P	3♣
		♦ A3		P	4♠	P	P
		♣ K9642		P			
		W West		E East			
		♠ 97		♠ 108			
		♥ AQ95		♥ J107			
		♦ KQJ65		♦ 109842			
		♣ 103		♣ QJ8			
		S South		4♠ S NS: 0 EW: 0			
		♠ AK6542					
		♥ K63					
		♦ 7					
		♣ A75					

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

<https://tinyurl.com/ygltgmlv>, 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.