

Christmas 2013 Bridge puzzle:

After the bidding	W	N	E	S
	1♠	Dbl	P	5♣
	P	P	P	

W led K♠ and dummy was placed on the table.

Dummy	♠ T5
	♥ JT52
	♦ AKJ4
	♣ KT8
Declarer	♠ 963
	♥ AQ
	♦ 92
	♣ AQJ962

Declarer now worked out who had each AKQJ.
Where were they all?

What is the meaning of the bidding?

W	N	E	S	Comment
1♠				12..19 HCP, L4+♠ or 10..11 HCP and a light opening (eg Rule of 20)
	Dbl			Takeout double. Opening points (12+), a shortage (L2-♠) in spades and L3+ in the other 3 suits, with any suit being acceptable as trumps. So probably at least one honour per suit.
		P		Not much...
			5♣	Quote from No Fear Crib Sheet: "13+, Cue bid opponent's suit or bid game in own 6+ card suit.." This is bid game, so 13+ points and L6+♣
P	P	P		Then 3 passes.

West leads $K\spadesuit$.

Dummy has 12 HCP, Declarer has 13 HCP. West as opener said 12+ HCP. This totals 37HCP (or 35 if W was a light opening). So East has 3..5 HCP.

We can see:	W	N	E	S	Unknown
\spadesuit	K	-	-	-	AQJ
\heartsuit	-	J	-	AQ	K
\diamondsuit	-	AKJ	-	-	Q
\clubsuit	-	K	-	AQJ	-

So there are 12 points (5 cards) to be placed. W has shown 3 HCP so has at least 9 HCP more.

What is the significance of the $K\spadesuit$ lead? It won't be a singleton as that places $AQJ\spadesuit$ with low point East. Therefore it is the top of a sequence. So W has the $Q\spadesuit$ as well. W also **doesn't** have the $A\spadesuit$ as he would lead that with both $AK\spadesuit$.

That places $A\spadesuit$ with E and leaves 8 HCP unplaced. W needs all those points/cards to do a light opening. The only possible flaw is a 10 HCP light opening with $J\spadesuit$ also being with East..

Therefore the probable layout is

	\spadesuit -	
	\heartsuit J	
	\diamondsuit AKJ	
	\clubsuit K	
\spadesuit KQ(J)		\spadesuit A(J)
\heartsuit K		\heartsuit -
\diamondsuit Q		\diamondsuit -
\clubsuit -		\clubsuit -
	\spadesuit -	
	\heartsuit AQ	
	\diamondsuit -	
	\clubsuit AQJ	

From which we can determine that S leading a low diamond through $Q\diamondsuit$ will allow a successful finesse against $Q\diamondsuit$.

Declarer's hands reprised:

Dummy	♠ T5
	♥ JT52
	♦ AKJ4
	♣ KT8
Declarer	♠ 963
	♥ AQ
	♦ 92
	♣ AQJ962

Declarer has 2 spade losers (he trumps the 3rd small one in dummy), 1 heart loser (to the K♥), 0 diamond losers and 0 club losers. To make the contract he has to get rid of one loser.

Trick	(1)	W wins K♠
	(2)	E wins A♠
	3	E leads ♥, won by S with A♥
	4	S leads 3 rd ♠, trumped by N (The 8♣ is a master).
	5,6,7	3 rounds of trumps won by AKQ♣ ending in S
	8	S leads ♦ finessing the J♦
	9	N wins A♦ with S playing last ♦
	10	N wins K♦ with S discarding losing Q♥
	11,12,13	S remaining 3 trumps are good.

The actual hands were

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