

Dummy

♠109
♥A853
♦AJ4
♣10842

You

♠A854
♥K10964
♦Q92
♣J

<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>
1C	1H	2C	3H
P	P	P	

The opening lead is the A of clubs, The K of clubs is next, Plan the play.

Send your answers to me: billpuzzles@bridgesights.com

The Answer

This is a case where you need to count your winners. If hearts are 2-2, you can come to 10 tricks – 2 diamonds, 1 spade, and 7 hearts (5 in your hand, and 2 spade ruffs in dummy). However, if trumps are 3-1, you need to be careful, because if you pull 3 rounds, you will only come to 5 heart tricks (4 in your hand and 1 spade ruff in dummy), for a total of only 8 tricks.

Therefore, the secret is to delay drawing trumps. Even if you pull 2 rounds and then stop, when the defense gets in with a diamond or a spade, they can pull the third round, holding you to 8 tricks.

At trick 3, you should play a diamond to the J. Assume it loses and a trump comes back. You win, and play a spade and another spade. If another trump comes back, you win. You can then proceed to cash your diamonds and then cross ruff the black suits. The defense will score their last trump by either overruffing or ruffing a diamond winner, but you will still come to 9 tricks.