Thinking bridge

By Eddie Kantar @ NABC Spring 2019 Memphis-1

Take All Your Chances

```
Dummy
♠ K 8 4 2
♥ K 7 5
♦ A Q J 10 2
♣ A

Declarer (You)
♠ 3
♥ A Q J 10 9 6 4 3
♦ 9 8
♣ 10 4
```

After you open 4♥, partner checks to make sure you have an ace and sets you down in 6♥. Opening lead: ♣K: Plan the play.

You have two possible losers – a spade and a diamond – and you have two chances to get rid of at least one or them.

You can take the diamond _____ you make an overtrick, if it loses you are down one, as the ♠A is the setting trick. _____ lead up to the ♠K first. If West has the ace, you won't need the diamond fi_____ goes off on the ♠K assuming West goes up with the ace. If West plays low, the _____ an take the diamond finesse for an overtrick. If East tops the ♠K with the ace, y_____ ond finesse available.

ip: When two lines of play are available, take the one that gives you a chance (keeps you alive) to use the other if the first fails. Expect this theme ("staying alive") to appe_____ of hands, just as at the table. Lead up to the ♠K to stay alive.

Percentage-wise if you lead up to the ♠K first (and that doesn't work) a_____ finesse, you have a 75% chance of making the hand (one of two finesses_____ eggs in the diamond-finesse basket, you only have a 50% chance of mak_____

The full deal:

```
                    ♠ K 8 4 2
                    ♥ K 7 5
                    ♦ A Q J 10 2
                    ♣ A
♠ A 9 6 5                        ♠ Q J 10 7
♥ 2                              ♥ 8
♦ 7 6 4 3                        ♦ K 5
♣ K Q J 9                        ♣ 8 7 6 5 3 2
                    ♠ 3
                    ♥ A Q J 10 9 6 4 3
                    ♦ 9 8
                    ♣ 10 4
```