The Devil is in the Details

Dealer: North
Vul: NS

Robert S. Todd

	♠ JT7542 ♥ Q6 ♦ Q4 ♣ AJ6	
♠ Q ♥ AK874 ♦ A62 ♣ T984		♠ K986 ♥ T95 ♦ 53 ♣ Q753
	♠ A3 ♥ J32 ♦ KJT987 ♣ K2	

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
P	P	1♦	1♥
1♠	2♥	3♦	P
3♠	All Pass		

The winners of the opening Charity Pairs, Piotr Olszewski and Foster Osborne, had a fabulous result on this hand. Here Piotr passed with 10 HCP and a weak ♠ suit. He then found his way to declaring in 3♠.

At first look it appeared that he had 2♠, 2♥, and 1♦ losers. After 3 rounds of ♥, he found the clever discard of the ♦Q. Now he was on the dummy and saw that all of dummy's ♦ were equal in value. He called for a low ♦, and since he had discarded the ♦Q, it appeared to West that North was out of ♦, so they played low. The ♦7 won the trick - a great deceptive play!!

Now Piotr played three rounds of ♣, ruffing the third round with dummy's ♠3. Declarer unblocked the trump Ace and ruffed a ♦ back to his hand. He then finished the hand off carefully. Having noticed that the ♠Q fell under the ♠A, he knew that he had 2♠ losers if ♠ were 4-1 (and it would not matter which ♠ he played now), but if West had started with ♠KQ doubleton and he played the ♠J now, West would win and play another ♥, giving East a trump promotion. He carefully played a low ♠ from his hand to give himself some protection. Though it did not matter which ♠ he played on this hand, this was an excellent careful play.

Well done Piotr, combining deception, creativity, and caution!