

THINKING BRIDGE

By **Eddie Kantar**

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Dir: North Vul: Both	NORTH ♠ A J 10 ♥ Q J 6 5 4 ♦ A K 6 3 ♣ 5		West	North	East	South
				1 Heart	Pass	2 Club
			Pass	2 Diamond	Pass	2 NT
			Pass	3 NT	All Pass	
WEST ♠ 9 8 6 4 2 ♥ A 8 3 ♦ J 9 ♣ Q 6 3		EAST ♠ Q 7 ♥ K 10 9 2 ♦ Q 10 8 7 ♣ 8 7 2	Opening Lead = ♠9.			
	SOUTH ♠ K 5 3 ♥ 7 ♦ 5 4 2 ♣ A K J 10 9 4					

Bidding commentary: Playing 2/1 game force, 2NT is forcing. Not playing 2/1, it is not. In either case, 3NT will be reached.

Lead commentary: The lead is normal. Fourth best should not be led when a suit is headed by a 9 or an 8. It is just too misleading.

Play commentary: This contract is going to live or die with the club suit. If you have a club loser, you will need a return entry to your hand to cash them! You have that entry in the ♠K. So win the ♠A in dummy and lead a club to the jack. If it loses, there is really nothing West can lead to prevent you from aking 10 tricks as the ♠Q happens to be doubleton.

Defensive commentary: If declarer plays the ♠10 from dummy at trick one, cover with the queen. If declarer allows you to hold the trick, and you read what is going on, you can defeat the contract by playing declarer for a singleton heart and shifting to a low heart at trick two. If partner wins the ♥A and returns the ♥8, duck when an honor is played from dummy. When partner gets in with the ♣Q, a third heart play sinks the contract once and for all! When you lead a low heart, partner can also play the ♥8, driving out a heart honor from dummy. When he gets in with the ♣Q, he plays the ♥A and another heart through dummy's jack or Queen.