

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC –SUMMER 2014 – LAS VAGAS -4)

Dir: South Vul: N-S	NORTH ♠ 963 ♥ A2 ♦ 1072 ♣ KQ1085		West	North	East	South
			--	--	--	2 Club
			2 Spade	3 Club	Pass	3 Heart
			Pass	4 Heart	Pass	4 NT
			Pass	5 Club	Pass	5 Heart
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ QJ10852 ♥ K ♦ A964 ♣ 73		EAST ♠ 74 ♥ 9653 ♦ 853 ♣ J962	Opening Lead = ♠Q.			
	SOUTH ♠ AK ♥ QJ10874 ♦ KQJ ♣ A5					

Bidding commentary: South's 2♣ was strong and artificial. West's 2♠ is obstructive. It usually doesn't show a good hand. In fact, many players would overcall 3♠ at this vulnerability (scoring is matchpoints).

Keep in mind that the 2♣ bidder has yet to show what type of strong opener he has. Note also that 2♣ openers hate to be preempted. As North, you have a very good hand facing a 2♣ opener and should show your suit before things get out of hand.

As South, you have an easy 3♥ bid and North would like to have a third heart to raise, but he was dealt only two and raises to 4♥.

South's 4NT (Roman Key Card Blackwood – 1430) looks safe. If partner has only one key card and responds 5♣, meaning you are missing two key cards, don't be a hero. Sign off at 5♥.

Defensive commentary: As West, make your normal lead. As East, start a high-low to show a doubleton.

Play commentary: 5♥ looks pretty safe. The most you figure to lose is a heart and a diamond. In fact, you might make 6♥ if West has ♥K x. After winning the spade, show a little panache and lead the ♥10. Why the ♥10? Because no West is going to cover the ♥10 with ♥K x (x). Declarer might have six hearts to the Q-10-9.

If the ♥10 is covered, chances are West has a singleton king. If you trust your instincts, you will win the ♥A and lead a low heart to the 8, catering to an original holding of ♥9 x x x with East.

If the 8 loses to the 9 and a spade comes back and East ruffs, I don't know you, I never knew you, I did not write this column, and retirement is looking better and better.