

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC - Summer 2014 - Las Vegas - 9)

Dir: South Vul: N-S	NORTH ♠ J862 ♥ Q86 ♦ 654 ♣ AJ3		West	North	East	South
			--	--	--	1 Spade
			2 Heart	2 Spade	Pass	4 Spade
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ 3 ♥ AKJ963 ♦ K83 ♣ 1097		EAST ♠ 107 ♥ 1042 ♦ J1097 ♣ Q865	Opening Lead = ♥A (ace from A-K in unsupported suits at trick one versus suit contracts)			
	SOUTH ♠ AKQ954 ♥ 7 ♦ AQ2 ♣ K42					

Lead commentary: After trick one, the king is led from the A-K.

Defensive commentary: After partner's discouraging signal of the ♥2 (not suit preference), it looks right to shift to the ♠10.

Play commentary: South, with both red kings marked in the West hand, should try to arrange a loser-on-loser play, eventually leading the ♥Q and discarding a diamond. This forces West to lead a diamond into your A-Q or give you a ruff-sluff (you ruff in dummy and discard the ♦Q from hand).

To pull this off, you can't let East in to lead a diamond through your A-Q. Just duck the ♠10 completely (key play), allowing West to take the trick. West will likely continue with a second club. You can win the king, play the ♠A and ♠K, cross to the ♣A, stripping that suit. After you ruff a heart, cross back to the ♠J and now your big play - the ♥Q, discarding a diamond.

West has no answer and you have made your game contract via a loser-on-loser play as well as a neat duck to keep East off lead. You lose a club trick to West rather than to East.