

THINKING BRIDGE - - By Eddie Kantar
 (From - NABC -SPRING - 2014 - DALLAS - 10)

Dir: South Vul: N-S	NORTH ♠ 109 ♥ K654 ♦ KQJ10 ♣ K85		West	North	East	South
			--	--	--	1 Diamond
			1 Spade	X	3 Spade	4 Heart
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ AK732 ♥ A32 ♦ 7 ♣ 9632		EAST ♠ QJ65 ♥ 87 ♦ 98 ♣ QJ1074	Opening Lead = ♠K (king from A-K in supported suits).			
	SOUTH ♠ 84 ♥ QJ109 ♦ A65432 ♣ A					

The bidding can go several different ways after South's 4♥ bid, West might be tempted to bid 4♠ which looks like a reasonable sacrifice against 4♥ - if 4♥ can be made. But guess what? It can't!

On the other hand, if West does bid 4♠, it might provoke East-West to bid 5♥, which is down two!

North's double is negative, showing at least four hearts with 8+ HCP but is unlimited when holding four hearts. South assumes the minimum count for the time being. East's jump to 3♠ is weak. With cuebids available to show stronger supporting hands, jump raises are considered preemptive. Important.

West leads the ♠K and East signals with the queen to show the jack. It is a neat signal, allowing partner to safely underlead the ace if necessary. On this deal it is necessary.

West shifts to his singleton diamond, and when in with the ♥A, he underleads the ♠A to partner's jack to get a diamond ruff (if East wishes to continue this session with his partner, he had better return a diamond!). If East's spade holding was something like Q-9-x-x, he should play the 9, attitude showing the queen, making the underlead a piece of cake.