

THINKING BRIDGE by EDDIE KANTAR 9

Dir: South Vul: None	♠ K 10 8 7 ♥ 2 ♦ Q J 7 ♣ A K Q J 9		
♠ A 3 2 ♥ K J 10 8 7 ♦ A 4 3 2 ♣ 2	♠ Q J 9 6 ♥ A 4 3 ♦ 10 8 6 ♣ 10 6 5	♠ 5 4 ♥ Q 9 6 5 ♦ K 9 5 ♣ 8 7 4 3	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1♥ 3♥	Dbl 4♣	2♥ All Pass	Pass 2♣

Opening lead: ♣2.

Bidding commentary: South is strong enough to compete to 2♣ and West is strong enough to compete to 3♥. West's failure to make a game try over 2♣ (bidding anything other than 3♥), tells East to shut up! North has enough to bid game once South makes a peep at the two level.

Lead commentary: As West, a singleton lead stands out like a beacon when holding the trump ace. The idea is to find an entry to partner's hand after you get in with the ♠A.

Defensive commentary: As East, if you recognize the lead as a singleton, give partner suit preference at trick one! A low club suggests diamond strength (typically the ace or king). A high club suggests heart strength (ace or king).

Play commentary: As South, draw trumps as soon as possible. There is no need to ruff hearts. The idea is to set up the dummy, the hand with the solid side suit. If you do, you don't have to worry about your heart losers. Just pretend North is the declarer.

Defensive commentary: As West, when in with the ♠A, try the ♦A. If partner signals encouragement, continue with a diamond to the king and ruff the club return. If partner discourages in diamonds, shift to a heart, hoping partner has the ace. You have to find partner with one of those two cards, so rather than guess, give yourself two chances by starting with the ♦A.