

THINKING BRIDGE - - By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC Fall - 2015 · Denver · Colorado)

Take all your chances at bridge - 8

By Eddie Kantar

♠ A 6
♥ Q 8 7 4 3 2
♦ J 4 3 2
♣ 3

♠ 5
♥ A K
♦ K 7
♣ A Q J 10 9 5 4 2

With only your side vulnerable, West opens 3♣, partner passes and East ups the ante to 4♠. You have no qualms about bidding 5♣, and everyone passes. The ♠Q is led. Plan the play.

Solution

You are in the dummy for the last time and have to decide whether to lead up to the ♦K or take the club finesse. The club finesse is much less than 50% because you can't pick up K-x-x-(x) in the East hand. Play the odds and lead a diamond up to the king, a 50% play unless West started with a singleton diamond and didn't lead it – not too likely as most players lead singletons even when they don't have one.

If the ♦K loses to the ace and today is your lucky day, the ♣K will drop under the ace (13%). You will make this contract about 55% of the time. Even if you had the ♣A K J 10 x x x x, you should still lead a diamond at trick two as you have a reasonable chance of dropping the ♣Q (a little more than 50%) if the ♦K loses to West's ace. Two chances are better than one.

The full deal:

♠ A 6	
♥ Q 8 7 4 3 2	
♦ J 4 3 2	
♣ 3	
♠ Q J 10 8 7 4 3	♠ K 9 2
♥ 9 5	♥ J 10 6
♦ Q 6	♦ A 10 9 8 5
♣ K 8	♣ 7 6
♠ 5	
♥ A K	
♦ K 7	
♣ A Q J 10 9 5 4 2	