

THINKING BRIDGE - - By Eddie Kantar
 (From - NABC -Spring - 2013 =St.Louis - 1-)

Dir: West Vul: E-w	NORTH ♠ A Q 9 4 ♥ A J 10 5 ♦ A J ♣ 10 9 2		West	North	East	South
			1♣	Dbl	Pass	2♠
			Pass	4♠	All Pass	
WEST ♠ 8 6 3 ♥ 7 4 3 2 ♦ K Q 5 ♣ A K Q		EAST ♠ 2 ♥ Q 6 ♦ 9 8 7 6 4 3 2 ♣ 7 6 4	Opening Lead = ♣A.			
	SOUTH ♠ K J 10 7 5 ♥ K 9 8 ♦ 10 ♣ J 8 5 3					

Bidding commentary: As South, you can revalue your hand facing a takeout double. An unbid five-card major is worth one extra point, minimum. The ♥K, facing likely heart length and strength, is worth an extra point as well. On the down side, don't count anything for the ♣J, a lonesome secondary honor in a suit bid by the opponents. All in all, your hand is worth at least 9 points, closer to 10 because of the strength of your spades. In any case, you have enough to make a non-forcing jump to 2♠, showing 9-11 revalued points, an important number to remember. As North, with 17 support points (one for the doubleton), you have enough to bid 4♠.

Defensive commentary: As West, start with three top clubs and then the ♦K.

Play commentary: As South, you must find the ♥Q to make your contract. You know West started with three clubs, so West has a balanced hand. When an opponent has a balanced hand and doesn't open 1NT or 2NT, that opponent must have 12-14 or 18-19 high-card points. With 18-19, opener usually bids again. Assume 12-14 if opener remains silent. West has turned up with 9 HCP in clubs and figures to have the ♦K Q - that's 14 HCP. Ergo, South doesn't have the ♥Q or he would have opened 1NT.

After drawing trumps, lead a heart to the ace and run the ♥J, intending to finesse if the queen doesn't appear.

To remember: If opener starts with 1♣ or 1♦ and turns up with three cards in that suit, opener must have a balanced hand - no singletons, no voids and no five-card suit.