

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC -FALL 2009 -SAN DIEGO - CALIFORNIA Thinking Bridge 2)

Dir: North Vul: E-W	NORTH A Q 4 Q 8 2 9 7 3 2 Q J 8		West	North	East	South
				Pass	1 Diamond	1 Heart
			Pass	2 Diamond	Pass	4 Heart
			All Pass			
WEST 10 9 7 3 2 5 4 3 10 8 10 6 3		EAST J 8 6 5 A A J 6 4 A 9 7 4	Opening Lead = 10.			
	SOUTH K K J 10 9 7 6 K Q 5 K 5 2					

Bidding commentary: North's passed-hand cue bid shows a hand too strong to raise to 2♥, typically 11-12 support points. A raise to 2♥ is an underbid. A jump to 3♥ is weak (jump raises of overcalls show good trumps but not good hands). The cue bid replaces the jump raise - the best of both worlds.

Play commentary: South should be aware of what is going on. West is now void in diamonds, and when East gets in with the ♥A, he will give West a diamond ruff. That, along with the A, will be four defensive tricks. As declarer, you have an answer. After winning the ♦K at trick two, overtake the ♠K and discard the ♦Q on the ♠Q. A queen for a queen. Now it is safe to lead trumps because there is no longer a threat of a diamond ruff. East can play a diamond, but your heart spots are bigger than any outstanding spots. West is helpless.

When an honor card (♦10) is led and the next lower card (♦9) is visible, assume the lead is from shortness. When partner leads from known shortness and you, third hand, win the trick, the card you return in that suit is suit preference in case partner ruffs.

Defensive commentary: From East's point of view, with the ♦9 in dummy, the lead must be from shortness. If the ♦9 had not been in dummy, the lead could have been from 10-9-x-(x). East goes up with the ♦A and returns the ♦4, suit preference for clubs in case West ruffs.