

# THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

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

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

**Bidding commentary:** West's 2 jump overcall is weak, the equivalent of a weak twobid opener. The rest of the bidding is normal.

**Defensive commentary:** After winning the first two clubs, South shifts to the ♥J. When declarer plays low, North must not win the ace. Instead, North signals encouragement with the ♥8, indicating a high honor. North intends to use the ♥A to capture declarer's king. Aces were meant to capture kings and queens, not 2s and 3s. If North nervously takes the ♥, declarer loses one heart trick instead of two.

**Play commentary:** After winning the ♥Q, West draws trumps and leads a spade to the jack. South needs the ♠A to justify an opening bid as it appears that North has the ♥A. After winning the ♠A, South plays the ♥10, and the defenders collect two (not one) heart tricks along with two clubs and a spade to defeat the contract one trick.

This heart position is worth noting. North assumes from the lead of the jack that West has the king. If West has the king, North almost always saves a trick by not taking the ace, but rather waiting for partner to regain the lead and lead through the king. The idea is to get something for your money when you have an ace and the king is to your right.