

THINKING BRIDGE

By **Eddie Kantar**

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

Bidding commentary: The bidding needs a little explanation. 2 is strong and artificial, 2 is a waiting response (waiting for disaster!) and 2♠ is forcing. 3 was being used a "double negative" after a 2♥ or 2♠ rebid by the opener denying as much as an ace, a king or two queens. Knowing what is opposite, East bids 4♠ looking at close to 10 tricks. No matter how you and partner play, you have to have a way to show a bust hand facing a 2 opener.

Defensive commentary: East plays the 8 at trick one to show partner the king.

Play commentary: The title of this hand should be "resisting temptation." There is a strong temptation to cross to the ♠9 and take a heart finesse. However, it is a very risky play as you have 10 sure tricks no matter who has the ♥K! Count tricks! You have six top spades and three aces for nine. If you can ruff a heart in dummy with the ♠9, that makes 10. Do it. Win the A and play the ♥A and another heart. No matter what the opponents do, you are in great shape. Just keep that ♠9 over there. When next on lead, concede a second heart and then, finally, ruff your ♥Q with the ♠9, your 10th trick. Notice that if you take the heart finesse it loses (what else is new?) and you will not be able to ruff your fourth heart in dummy, East will over ruff.