

THINKING BRIDGE - - By Eddie Kantar
(From - NABC -FALL - 2013 - PHOENIX- ARIZONA -8)

Dir: South Vul: N-S	NORTH ♠ 109 ♥ K654 ♦ KQJ10 ♣ K85		West	North	East	South
			--	--	--	1 Diamond
			1 Spade	X	3 Spade	4 Heart
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ AK732 ♥ A32 ♦ 7 ♣ 7632		EAST ♠ QJ65 ♥ 87 ♦ 98 ♣ QJ1074	Opening Lead = ♠ K (king from ace-king in supported suits).			
	SOUTH ♠ 84 ♥ QJ109 ♦ A65432 ♣ A					

The bidding can go several different ways after South's 4♥ bid. West might be tempted to bid 4♠, which looks like a reasonable sacrifice against 4♥ - if 4♥ can be made. But guess what, it can't!

On the other hand, if West does bid 4♠, it might provoke East-West to bid 5♥ which is down two!

North's double is negative, showing at least four hearts with 8+ HCP but is unlimited when holding four hearts. South assumes the minimum count for the time being. East's jump to 3♠ is preemptive. With cuebids available to show stronger supporting hands, jump raises are considered weak and preemptive. Important.

West leads the ♠ K and East signals with the queen to show the jack. It is a neat signal, allowing partner to safely underlead the ace if necessary. On this deal, it is necessary.

West shifts to his singleton diamond and, when in with the ♥ A, underleads the ♠ A to partner's jack to get a diamond ruff.

If East wishes to continue this session with his partner he had better return a diamond! With something like ♠ Q 9 x x, East should play the 9, attitude showing the queen, making the underlead a piece of cake