

THINKING BRIDGE

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

Bidding commentary: West has a *mandatory* opening with 12 high-card points and a five-card suit. A reopening bid of 1NT in the pass out seat (South) shows 11-14 HCP. South is too strong to show 15-17 HCP, South doubles and then bids 1NT.

Lead commentary: Defensive commentary: West continues with high clubs until South wins the ace.

Play commentary: : South has six top tricks with chances for more in three suits. If diamonds break or the ♦J drops, an extra trick is available there. If the spade finesse works, an extra trick or two is available there. In hearts, if you are willing to give up the lead twice, two certain extra tricks are available there. Mirror, mirror on the wall, which is the best suit of all?

As South, ask yourself how many tricks *they* can take once they get the lead. The answer is that you are in danger of losing four clubs, max, plus the ♥A and ♥K for six. The idea is not to increase that count if possible. If you can establish tricks in a suit or suits where tricks have to be lost anyway, that's the suit for you. The mirror says: "Attack hearts. Don't worry about diamonds or spades, just drive out the top two hearts." Why increase their trick count when you don't have to.

However in a contract of 2NT or 3NT, you can't afford to let them in even once! You have to bring in diamonds and spades for the desired number of tricks. The last suit to attack is hearts!