

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

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

Bidding commentary: North should rebid a *powerful* five-card suit rather than rebid 1NT with a low singleton in partner's suit. South wants to be in game and leaps to 4♥. A jump to 3♥ would be invitational, *not* forcing. The one who knows goes. To angle for 3NT, South must bid 2♦, forcing, looking for a spade stopper.

Defensive commentary: Assuming the ♠A is played from dummy, East signals with the ♠J. When partner leads and dummy takes the trick, third hand, holding an honor sequence headed by the jack, queen or king, plays the *highest* honor in the sequence - the same card he would have chosen had he been on lead.

Play commentary: Play commentary: As South, after winning the ♠A and playing the top three hearts, you find East with four to the jack. You have two fast (can be taken when they get in) spade losers, one slow (eventual) diamond loser and one heart loser. If you want to play *safe* for 4♥ (never too bad an idea), give up the heart trick. Let the opponents take two spades, but the diamond loser goes off on a club. The reason you can afford to give up a heart with those great-looking clubs in dummy is because the opponents cannot take *enough* fast tricks to defeat you. If you attack clubs before giving up a heart, the second club could be ruffed and down you go. You lose two spades and a diamond in addition to the ruff. Unlucky. At tournament bridge where overtricks are vital, play clubs before a fourth heart.

Say you have the ♦K Q, not the ♦A 6. Now you have three fast losers plus the heart. Now you have to attack clubs before giving up a heart, hoping East has at least two clubs. If so, you will make either four or five depending upon how many clubs East has.