

# THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

(From -NABC SUMMER 2011-TORONTO - CANADA KANTAR 7 )

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

**Bidding commentary:** Not very scientific. North's 3NT response shows the values of a strong 1NT opening bid and South takes a reasonable flyer at 6♣.

**Lead commentary:** It's never much fun leading against a slam facing two strong hands. A club is the most passive lead. The ♠A is the most aggressive.

**Play commentary:** As South, you have two possible losers, one in each red suit. Both suits offer finesse possibilities, and if you take both finesses you have a 75% chance of landing your contract. However, do not overlook dummy's spades. Dummy has the second- and third-ranking spades facing a void, the ideal setup for a loser on loser play. Draw trumps, ending in dummy and lead the ♠K. If it is covered, ruff, and now you can discard one red-suit loser on the ♠Q and take a finesse in the other red suit for an overtrick.

If East plays low on the ♠K, discard a heart (say). After West wins the ♠A, you can discard a diamond on the ♠Q. This is a 100% play.

**Tip:** There are many, many occasions where you can use a loser-on-loser play. All you need is the second and third ranking cards in one hand facing a void in the other. The second- and third-ranking cards could be the 9 8 facing a void. How's that again? Well, if four of the top five honors have already been played, the 9-8 are the second and third ranking cards left in the suit. And if they are facing a void, a loser on loser play may beckon