

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC - SUMMER 2011 - TORONTO CANADA - KANTAR - 9)

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

Bidding commentary: Routine

Lead commentary: : : Routine

Defensive commentary: East signals with the ♠8 at trick one showing an honor. With K-x, East overtakes to unblock the suit and with 8-x East plays low to deny an honor.

Play commentary: Assuming clubs are not 4-0, as South you have ten sure tricks—five clubs, three hearts and two side suit aces. So what can go wrong? Clubs may be 4-0. This actually happens a bit more than a quarter of the time, so be prepared.

If East has four clubs, there is nothing you can do to prevent East from winning a club trick. However, if West has four clubs, you can pick up the suit if you start with the ace.

After East shows out, it is easy enough to pick up the suit by eventually leading low towards the dummy twice. Careful declarers (like you) should consider the possibility of 4-0 splits rather than be burned by them. Also, do not waste time worrying about a 4-0 split that you can do nothing about (East having four clubs). Concentrate on the 4-0 split that you can do something about.