

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar
(From - NABC -Summer 2007 - Nashville (5))

Dir: South Vul: N-S	NORTH ♠ 8 5 4 ♥ A Q J 5 3 ♦ K 10 9 2 ♣ 5		West	North	East	South
			--	--	--	1 Spade
			2 Club	2 Heart	4 Club	4 Spade
			5 Club	5 Spade	All Pass	
WEST ♠ A 2 ♥ 6 ♦ Q J 4 3 ♣ A Q 8 7 6 3	24-07-2007	EAST ♠ 3 ♥ 9 8 7 4 ♦ 8 7 5 ♣ K 10 9 7 2	Opening Lead = ♥6			
	SOUTH ♠ K Q J 10 9 7 6 ♥ K 10 2 ♦ A 6 ♣ J					

Bidding commentary: East's jump to 4♣ is weak and preemptive. Jump raises of overcalls are preemptive. Normal strength is about 4–6 high-card points, four- or five-card support, plus a singleton or two doubletons. With stronger hands, the advancer (partner of the overcaller) raises, showing 8–10 support points. With more, advancer cuebids.

In the example auction, advancer can cuebid in spades or hearts. When the opponents have bid two suits, a cuebid is normally made in the suit in which the advancer has strength. If partner has strength in the other suit, a notrump contract might be reached.

One other point: South's spades are so long and so strong that he eschews supporting hearts to play in a suit so strong it doesn't really need help from partner - a winning tip.

Defensive commentary: On opening lead, holding the ace of trumps along with a side-suit singleton is about as good as it gets. The singleton is led with the idea of getting in with the trump ace and then putting partner in to secure a ruff. That's the idea, anyway.

Play commentary: Sitting in the South seat, with both opponents bidding clubs, a heart lead in dummy's first-bid suit looks ominous. It figures to be a singleton. You can visualize West winning the ♠A, leading a club to East and getting a heart ruff. What to do? One possibility is to play the ♦A, ♦K, then the ♦10. If East plays low, discard a club.

After winning the trick, West will not be able to put East in with a club for the heart ruff. If East covers the ♦10, ruff and lead the ♠Q, hoping West plays low fearing partner has the singleton king. Look, you are desperate.

Defensive commentary #2: If South plays a spade at trick two (the likelihood), West must win and lead a low club over to a hoped-for king to get that cherished heart ruff