

**THINKING BRIDGE** -- By Eddie Kantar  
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Dir: North Vul: None	NORTH ♠ 6 ♥ K 7 3 2 ♦ A Q 9 4 3 2 ♣ A 4		West	North	East	South
			--	1 Diamond	Pass	2 Club
			Pass	2 Diamond	Pass	3 NT
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ A 10 8 7 3 ♥ 10 8 6 ♦ 5 ♣ 8 7 6 2	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2007	EAST ♠ Q 5 4 2 ♥ Q J 9 ♦ J 8 7 6 ♣ K 9	Opening Lead = ♠ 7.			
	SOUTH ♠ K J 9 ♥ A 5 4 ♦ K 10 ♣ Q J 10 5 3					

**Bidding commentary:** North has a borderline reverse into 2♥ after the two-level response. As many play, a reverse (2♥) after a two-level response with a 6-4 pattern shows extras (14+ high-card points, minimum). South has an easy 3NT rebid. A 2NT rebid is not forcing.

**Play commentary:** When East plays the ♠ Q, South knows from the Rule of 11 that East is playing her only spade higher than the 7. Subtract the card led from 11: 7 from 11= 4. There are four cards higher than the 7 in the three remaining hands. South has three, dummy has none so East has one and it must be the queen. The Rule of 11 assumes a fourth-highest lead. If the rule doesn't work, it means that a fourth-highest card wasn't led.

**Defensive commentary:** When East plays the ♠ Q, West knows South has the ♠ J. With the Q-J, East plays the jack, the lower equal.

**Play commentary #2:** As South, after winning the ♠ K, you know West has the ♠ A-10-8-(x), and you also know you can't stand to let East gain the lead. Your next move is to count your sure tricks outside of your best suit, diamonds. You have four. The ♠ K, the ♣ A and the two top hearts.

Translation: You need five, not six, diamond tricks to make 3NT. The best play for five tricks, at the same time keeping East at bay (in case East has four diamonds to the jack) is to cross to the ♥ K and lead a diamond to the 10. If it wins and West follows, you have six diamond tricks and an overtrick. If it loses, you have five diamond tricks and your contract. You have just made an avoidance play keeping the danger hand, East, from getting in.

Cheers