

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar

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

Bidding commentary: Strong eight-card suits with less than opening bid strength (fewer than 10 HCP) should open four, not three! North checks for aces and bids the slam. South must have a play for slam with this dummy

Defensive commentary: When holding the K-Q-J of a suit along with a side-suit ace, the K-Q-J suit is the preferred lead. Also, when dummy tables, East knows that West has an ace (South showed only one in the bidding).

Play commentary: South has two chances to make this contract, not one! He crosses to the closed hand with a trump and leads a spade, not a diamond! If West has the ♠A, the diamond finesse is not necessary. After West takes the ♠A, the ♠K furnishes a diamond discard. If East has the ♠A, a diamond finesse is still available. In effect, declarer is taking two finesses. If the diamond finesse is taken first and it loses, declarer is down even though West may have the ♠A. Two chances are better than one.

When declarer has a singleton facing a king plus another finesse available in a long suit and declarer can afford to lose one trick, lead the singleton suit first. If the ace is well placed it may mean no finesse will be necessary in the longer suit