

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar
 (From - NABC -Summer 2-12 - Philadelphia - (1))

Dir: North Vul: Both	NORTH ♠ A J 7 ♥ Q 8 3 ♦ A J 10 7 6 5 ♣ K		West	North	East	South
			--	1 Diamond	2 Heart	2 Spade
			Pass	3 Spade	Pass	4 Spade
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ 4 3 2 ♥ 2 ♦ K Q ♣ J 8 7 5 4 3 2	13-07-2012	EAST ♠ 5 ♥ A K J 10 9 7 ♦ 9 8 4 2 ♣ 10 9	Opening Lead = ♥2.			
	SOUTH ♠ K Q 10 9 8 6 ♥ 6 5 4 ♦ 3 ♣ A Q 6					

Bidding commentary: East's 2♥ - a weak jump overcall -is comparable to a weak two-bid: basically a reasonable six-card suit with 6-9 high-card-points. It frequently serves as a good lead director. South's two-level major-suit response of 2♠ guarantees at least five spades and 11 or more HCP.

Lead commentary: Painfully obvious. Some players will lead a singleton even when they don't have one!

Defensive commentary: East wins the first trick as cheaply as possible and continues with the ♥K and ♥A. West anticipates making two discards. Why not discard the ♦K and ♦Q so a diamond can be ruffed at trick four? After all, declarer may have a singleton diamond and no diamond trick may be forthcoming. That is not only the best defense, it is the only defense to defeat 4♠.

When several discards can be envisioned, consider discarding from shortness putting yourself in a position to ruff the suit you are discarding.