

THINKING BRIDGE - - By **Eddie Kantar**
 (From - NABC Summer 2012-Philadelphia-(2))

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--------------------|----------|---------|-------|
| Dir: East Vul: Both | NORTH ♠ 10 9 ♥ 5 3 2 ♦ A 10 9 8 ♣ A J 6 2 | | West | North | East | South |
| | | | -- | -- | 1 Spade | Pass |
| | | | 2 Diamond | Pass | 2 Heart | Pass |
| | | | 2 NT | Pass | 3 Heart | Pass |
| | | | 4 Heart | All Pass | | |
| WEST ♠ 3 ♥ A J 10 ♦ K J 6 4 3 2 ♣ Q 10 9 | 14 th July 2012 | EAST ♠ A K 6 5 4 ♥ K Q 9 8 7 ♦ - ♣ 7 5 4 | Opening Lead = ♣3. | | | |
| | SOUTH ♠ Q J 8 7 2 ♥ 6 4 ♦ Q 7 5 ♣ K 8 3 | | | | | |

Bidding commentary: West has a choice of non-forcing rebids (unless 2♦ is played as a game force): 2NT or 3♦. Given the weakness of the diamonds, 2NT is superior. Notice that one choice is not 3♥. In order to raise a secondary suit directly, four-card support is needed. This is an important bidding principle. As it happens, whether West rebids 2NT or 3♦, East rebids 3♥ to show a five-card suit and responder happily raises to game.

Lead commentary: South's spade holding suggests a trump lead to stop spade ruffs in dummy, but his diamond holding suggests the more attacking club lead.

Defensive commentary: When dummy plays low at trick one, North plays the jack. The lead of a low card suggests an honor, and the only honor not visible is the king. After the defense cashes three clubs, both defenders know that East, who has shown 10 major-suit cards during the auction, has a diamond void. Furthermore, whoever winds up on lead after three clubs have been cashed should shift to a trump to stop spade ruffs. A trump switch combined with North not playing the ♦A when a low diamond is led from dummy, defeats 4♥.

Play Commentary: If the defenders do not shift to a trump after winning three clubs, declarer gets home on a cross-ruff, but must cash the two top spades *before* crossruffing