

THINKING BRIDGE - - By Eddie Kantar
(From - NABC -Summer 2012 - Philadelphia (7))

Dir: East Vul: None	NORTH ♠ 9 7 3 ♥ 9 8 6 5 ♦ Q 10 4 2 ♣ 10 8		West	North	East	South
			--	--	1 Spade	X
			4 Spade	Pass	Pass	5 Heart
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ K Q 8 5 ♥ — ♦ 9 8 7 5 ♣ J 6 5 4 3	19 th July 2012	EAST ♠ A 10 8 4 2 ♥ A 4 ♦ 6 3 ♣ K Q 7 2	Opening Lead = ♠K.			
	SOUTH ♠ 6 ♥ K Q J 10 7 3 2 ♦ A K J ♣ A 9					

Bidding commentary: South is too strong to overcall 2♥, opting instead to double, planning to jump to 4♥ to show a monster hand. However, things seldom work out as planned. West's jump to 4♠, the fly in the ointment, is preemptive. A jump raise by responder after a takeout double is weak and preemptive. With strong responding hands (11+ high-card points), responder redoubles first. Also, a jump to 2NT over a double shows a limit raise or better in partner's suit. It is not natural. With a normal 2NT response, responder redoubles first.

Further bidding commentary: Once a player preempts, he is not supposed to bid on in a competitive auction unless he wants to make a penalty double, which is rather rare. In so many words, West should not bid 5♠ when South bids 5♥. It's a bridge no-no for the weak hand to become the general. The strong hand has a much better idea of what to do.

Defensive commentary: When a defender can see what needs to be done to defeat a contract, he does it! East knows that South has at most one spade and there is some danger of losing a club trick on dummy's fourth diamond after the ♥A is dislodged. East smartly overtakes the ♠K and shifts to his own black king. When in with the ♥A, East cashes the ♠Q, the setting trick. Ole! Do not ask partner to do for you what you can do for yourself - even if means overtaking partner's trick. It hurts for only a little while.