

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar
(From - NABC -Summer 2012-Philadelphia -(8))

Dir: East Vul: Both	NORTH ♠ 7 2 ♥ 7 6 5 3 ♦ K J 9 ♣ 8 6 5 2		West	North	East	South
			--	--	Pass	1 Spade
			2 Club	Pass	2 NT	Pass
			3 NT	All Pass		
WEST ♠ 4 3 ♥ A K 2 ♦ 5 4 ♣ K Q J 10 9 7	20 th July 2012	EAST ♠ A K 6 5 ♥ Q 10 9 ♦ Q 7 6 3 ♣ 4 3	Opening Lead = ♠Q			
	SOUTH ♠ Q J 10 9 8 ♥ J 8 4 ♦ A 10 8 2 ♣ A A					

Bidding commentary: East's 2NT response to a two-level overcall shows 10-12 HCP, possibly 13 with a singleton club, a flaw. West, with seven taking tricks, has an easy raise to 3NT. A 3♣ rebid would be non-forcing and cowardly to the max.

Defensive commentary #1: North plays the ♠2 at trick one denying an honor. When partner leads the queen vs. notrump, third hand unblocks or overtakes with honor doubleton, signals encouragement with an honor plus length, otherwise plays low. No-high lows with low doubletons! This is notrump. North cannot ruff the third spade!

Play commentary: East wins trick one with the ♠K, keeping North in doubt as to whether West has led from a Q-J or an A-Q-J combination. With an A-K-(x) stopper, taking the first trick at notrump with the king is far more deceptive than winning with the ace. Do it!

Defensive commentary #2: After winning the ♣A, South counts East for at least 9 tricks: 5 clubs, two spades and at least two hearts. When declarer has enough quick tricks in three suits to make the contract, it's not a bad idea to shift to the fourth suit. Actually, it's a very good idea! If South shifts to the ♦2, North wins the ♦K and returns the ♦J (higher of two remaining cards). The defense cashes four diamonds. Down one. And just how does North know to return the ♦J and not a spade? When partner leads a low card in the second suit - in this case the ♦2 - partner wants the second suit returned. If partner leads a high card in the second suit, partner wants the first suit returned. Got it?