

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar
(From - NABC -Summer 2012 - Philadelphia (9))

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

Bidding commentary: North's bidding describes a hand with a doubleton heart and 6-9 HCP. Give North three hearts with similar strength and distribution and North does best to raise to 2♥ directly and not mention the spades. With this in mind, South is not strong enough to bid on. With a weak heart suit (hard to set up facing a doubleton) South needs 17-18 HCP to bid on. Give South the ♣A Q 9 instead of the ♣A 9 3 and South can try 2NT. Whatever, South should not persist in hearts - a death wish if there ever was one.

Lead commentary: With no standout lead available, the unbid suit is a reasonable shot.

Defensive commentary: Assuming dummy plays low, East plays the 10, not the king. East plays similarly if dummy has ♣Q x x (x). When third hand has a higher and a lower honor than dummy, the lower honor is inserted if dummy plays low. Very important.

Play commentary: After winning the ♣A, South plays on crossruff lines trying to make as many low trumps as possible. A good start is the ♠A, spade ruff, ♦A, ♦K, diamond ruff, spade ruff and a fourth diamond. West does best to ruff with the ♥K. If he does, eight tricks for declarer, if he doesn't, nine tricks for declarer.

To remember forever and ever: After 1♥-1♠, 2♦-2♥ or 1♥-1NT, 2♣-2♥ responder figures to have a doubleton heart. Amen.