

Thinking Bridge(3)NABC Fall 2008-Boston- By Eddie Kantar

Counting their tricks

Dlr: West Vul: None	♠ 7 5 4 ♥ K Q J 10 8 7 ♦ 7 5 ♣ 9 3		West 1 Diamond X	North 2 Heart All Pass	East Pass	South 4 Heart
♠ K 9 8 2 ♥ 2 ♦ A K Q 9 2 ♣ A 5 2		♠ Q 6 3 ♥ 4 3 ♦ 8 6 4 3 ♣ 8 7 6 4	Opening lead: ♦3.			
	♠ A J 10 ♥ A 9 6 5 ♦ J 10 ♣ K Q J 10					

Bidding commentary: As North, your 2♥ weak jump overcall is akin to a weak two-bid. It shows a six-card suit, typically headed by two or three honors, 6-9 high-card points. South's raise to 4♥ is a bit aggressive. A "scientific" option is to make a forcing 2NT response, asking partner to further describe the hand. This response would elicit 3♥ from North, showing a minimum. With a better hand, North would show a side-suit feature, an ace or a king. As South, you should pass 3♥, but that is water over the dam. West's double of 4♥ is for takeout, showing short hearts and a strong hand. As East, do not remove a takeout double of a game contract with a weak balanced hand.

Lead commentary: As East holding three or four low cards in partner's suit, lead low if you have not supported, high if you have. As an aside, with the ace in partner's suit, lead the ace – period. The lead of an ace in partner's suit denies the king.

Defensive commentary: As West, after you take your two diamond tricks, count their tricks. The bidding tells you of six heart tricks, and once North drives out the ♣A, declarer will have established three club tricks to go along with the ♠A for 10 tricks. What can you do? Your only hope is to build up a quick spade trick before your ♣A is removed. Playpartner for the ♠Q and shift to a low spade at trick three. If you do, partner comes through and plays the ♠Q, driving out the ace. The ♠K is the setting trick.