

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

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Dlr: West Vul: E-W	NORTH ♠ A 9 ♥ K Q 4 ♦ 5 4 2 ♣ J 9 8 7 6		West	North	East	South
			2 Spade	Pass	Pass	2 NT
			Pass	3 NT	All Pass	
WEST ♠ Q J 10 8 6 5 ♥ 9 8 6 ♦ J 9 7 ♣ A		EAST ♠ 7 4 3 ♥ 10 7 5 ♦ K 10 8 ♣ K 4 3 2	Opening Lead = ♠Q			
	SOUTH ♠ K 2 ♥ A J 3 2 ♦ A Q 6 3 ♣ Q 10 5					

Bidding commentary: South's reopening bid of 2NT shows 14-17 high-card points. North has a no brainer raise to 3NT. A 3♣ response by North would be Stayman.

Play commentary: As South, you start with seven top tricks and need two more. You could easily set up three extra tricks in clubs — if you had time. Unfortunately, you have only one spade stopper left and would have to let the opponents in twice to set up clubs. It doesn't compute. When they get in with the first club, they knock out your last spade stop, and when they get in with a second club, a torrent of spades will rain down upon you. Down two. You must look elsewhere for tricks. How about diamonds? Given this meager diamond combination, you need to find East with exactly K-x-x (an 18% chance) to build up two extra diamond tricks. An 18% chance is better than a 0% chance. Enter dummy with a heart, finesse the ♠Q and play the ♠A and a diamond (or duck a diamond and then play the ace Whatever you do works (am I good to you, or what?) as long as you attack diamonds, not clubs. It's all a matter of time. When a contract looks desperate, dream up a winning lie of the opponents' cards and play for it. When a contract looks too good to be true, start looking around for safety plays. This contract falls into the desperate category.