

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

(From NABC - Nov 2007-Sanfrancisco-(5))

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

Bidding commentary: When you have a five-card major, 10 or 11 high-card points are enough to open in fourth seat. North's jump to 3♠ is a limit raise showing 9-11 support points with at least four-card support. Those who play a jump to 3♠ as preemptive will cuebid to show a limit raise. East is not strong enough to bid 4♥ facing a passed hand, nor is South strong enough to bid 4♠.

Lead commentary: This is the story about leading the ace or the king from ace-king combinations. 1. The ace is led at trick one. After trick one, the king is led. 2. The king is also led in supported suits. Had East supported hearts, West should lead the king. 3. The king is also led from A-K-x(x) in any suit partner has bid, supported or not. Chances are it will have been supported, but it doesn't matter, the king is led. Leading the ace in a suit partner has bid denies the king. With A-K blank, everything is reversed.

Defensive commentary: East plays the ♥Q at trick one, promising the jack (or a singleton). West leads a low heart at trick two and East wins and leads a diamond to West's king. West should exit safely with a diamond.

Play commentary: After winning the second diamond, South drives out the ♠A. Assuming East wins and gets out with a diamond, South must locate the ♣Q. West, a passed hand, has turned up with the ♥A K and the ♦K. As it is unlikely that West has the ♣Q, guess who does ?