

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

(From Fall 2007 – San Francisco-(Nov 2007) - 1

Dealer West Vul > East - West

	♠ 6 5 3 ♥ A 8 2 ♦ 9 6 2 ♣ A 6 5 3		West	North	East	South
			1 Diamond	Pass	Pass	1 Heart
			2 Diamond	2 Heart	3 Diamond	3 Heart
			All Pass			
♠ K Q 10 ♥ 7 5 ♦ A Q J 10 5 3 ♣ Q 4		♠ A 8 7 2 ♥ 9 4 3 ♦ 8 7 4 ♣ 10 9 8	Opening Lead = ♠K			
	♠ J 9 4 ♥ K Q J 10 6 ♦ K ♣ K J 7 2					

Bidding commentary: West's 2♦ rebid facing a passing partner promises at least six diamonds with extras. East is allowed to compete one level higher with an ace plus three-card support. East-West make 3♦. South has extras for the reopening bid of 1♥, not counting the ♦K (South needs only 8+ high-card points with a presentable suit to reopen). South's distribution (singleton diamond) makes competing to 3♥ attractive.

Lead commentary: Pretty obvious.

Defensive commentary: East signals encouragement with the ♠8 (not the 7!), the higher of equals. The ♠8 also denies the ♠9. The defense reels off three spades, and East switches to a diamond. West wins the ♦A and continues with the ♦Q, South ruffing.

Play commentary: East, a responder who has passed an opening bid, has shown up with 4 HCP, the ♠A. If East had the ♣Q, he would have had enough to respond. West must have the ♣Q, so there is no point in finessing. After trumps are drawn, declarer plays the ♣K and ♣A, hoping the queen drops doubleton. Guess what?