

Thinking Bridge By Eddie Kantar

Long suit establishment

Dlr: South Vul: Both	♠ Q 5 2 ♥ A 7 6 4 3 ♦ A 6 ♣ 9 6 4		West	North	East	South
						2♣
			Pass	2♥	Pass	2♣
♠ 10 8 6 ♥ J 9 ♦ Q J 9 8 4 ♣ Q 10 5		♠ 9 ♥ Q 10 8 5 ♦ 10 7 3 2 ♣ 8 7 3 2	Pass	3♠	Pass	4 NT
			Pass	5♠	Pass	7♠
			All Pass			
	♠ A K J 7 4 3 ♥ K 2 ♦ K 5 ♣ A K J		Opening lead: ♦Q			

Bidding commentary: As North, your 2♥ response is natural and positive. Some play a positive response guarantees two of the top three honors, a bit restrictive. Agreeing the trump suit at the three level (3♠) facilitates slam bidding. Also, two aces plus the queen of partner's suit facing any sane 2♣ opening should be more than enough for slam. 4NT was Roman Keycard Blackwood (RKB) and the 5♠ response shows two keycards (the four aces and the trump king are key cards) plus the ♠Q. A 5♥ response also shows two key cards but denies the ♠Q. As South, though you can only count 12 sure tricks, heart establishment plus at worst the club finesse make bidding a grand slam odds on.

Play commentary: As South, in order to avoid the club finesse, you must try to set up at least one of dummy's hearts for a club discard. When setting up a long suit in dummy, keep as many late entries to dummy as possible. Win the ♦K and play the ♠A and ♠K, East discarding a club or a diamond. Notice that the ♦A and the ♠Q remain as "late" dummy entries. Next, cash the ♥K and play a heart to the ace, ruffing a heart with the ♠J in case West is out of hearts. He is! There is still one higher heart outstanding (you are counting hearts, of course). Not to worry, you have two dummy entries. Cross to the ♠Q, drawing West's last trump and ruff a heart. Don't look now, but you have established dummy's fifth heart for your 13th trick! Cross to the ♦A and discard the ♣J on the long heart.

Well done.

To remember: When setting up a long suit, use trump entries before side-suit entries (♠Q before ♦A).