

Thinking Bridge By Eddie Kantar

Maintaining communication

Dlr: East Vul: Both	♠ 9 6 ♥ 10 3 ♦ Q J 10 7 ♣ J 10 9 6 5		West Dbl 3♥	North 3♦ All Pass	East Pass Dbl	South 1♦ Pass
♠ A K 3 2 ♥ A Q J 4 ♦ 6 4 ♣ 8 5 3		♠ Q 10 5 4 ♥ K 8 7 6 ♦ 9 5 ♣ K 7 4	Opening lead: ♦Q.			
	♠ J 8 7 ♥ 9 5 2 ♦ A K 8 3 2 ♣ A Q					

Bidding commentary: As North, after an opposing takeout double, any jump by the responder (you) is preemptive. Don't worry about partner having three diamonds. That will be the case about 5% of the time. Do not play for exceptions! Would you rather be right 5% or 95% of the time? As East, your double, called "responsive," is for takeout after partner makes a takeout double and the opponents support each other. Your double shows the ability to play in hearts and spades plus 7-10 HCP. As West, after partner makes a responsive double, bid the full value of your hand. 3♥ is plenty. As East, you have told your story with your double, and if all partner can do is bid 3♥, call it a day.

Defensive commentary: As South, before blindly playing the ♦8 to encourage partner, check dummy to see if you want some other suit more than diamonds. Your eyes should come to rest upon your clubs. A club shift would be great, so play a low diamond asking for a shift, usually to dummy's shorter side suit. If partner shifts to the ♣J and declarer plays low from dummy, win the ♣Q, cash the ♣A, and lead a low diamond to partner's known jack to get a club ruff. Nice defense.

Defensive commentary #2: As third hand, do not signal partner encouragement in the suit that is led if you want a shift. Play low and hope partner works it out.

Play commentary: As West, if North shifts to the ♣J, play low from dummy. The bidding marks South with the ♣A Q and it may be doubleton!