

Thinking Bridge By Eddie Kantar

Extra chances

Dlr: South Vul: N-S	♠7 6 3 ♥Q108 ♦AQ32 ♣AQ J		West	North	East	South
			Pass	4♥	Dbl	3♥ All Pass
♠ 10 9 8 ♥ 3 2 ♦ 10 8 7 6 5 ♣ 10 8 4		♠ A K Q 2 ♥ 5 ♦ K J 9 ♣ K 9 7 6 5	Opening lead: ♠10.			
	♠J54 ♥AKJ9765 ♦4 ♣3 2					

Bidding commentary: As South, you have a maximum vulnerable preempt. As North, you have to decide between responding 3NT, gambling on the spade position, or raising to 4♥, exposing you're A-Q combinations to an immediate attack from West. As it happens, the opponents can only run four spades, so 3NT would have been okay. As East, you have too much not to act over 4♥. Your double is for takeout. As West, even though partner's double is for takeout, with a weak balanced hand, take your chances and pass

Defensive commentary: As East, cash three spades and exit safely with a heart.

Play commentary: As South, after East exits with a trump, it appears that you have to guess which minor-suit finesse to take, fearing from the bidding that neither is going to work. However, you have an extra chance. Play the ♦A and ruff a diamond. Return to dummy with a trump and ruff another diamond. If the ♦K appears (it does!), there is no need to take the club finesse. You can discard a club on the ♦Q. If the ♦K does not make a royal appearance, take the club finesse, but don't hold your breath. When missing two kings and having to decide which finesse to take, check to see if one of the suits includes a singleton (diamonds). If it does, try to ruff out the king of that suit. If that doesn't work, take the finesse in the other suit (clubs).