

Thinking Bridge By Eddie Kantar

Reading the lead

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

Bidding commentary: As South, you have a minimum for a one level overcall. As North, 16 support points (not counting the ♠Q) facing a one-level overcall “usually” produces game.

Defensive commentary: As East, decide what partner is leading from to determine what declarer has in the suit. The lead is a likely top of a doubleton. With 9x x-(x) in an unsupported suit, partner leads low. If partner has a doubleton, declarer has the A-J-10-x. If you cover, declarer will eventually be able to discard two clubs from dummy on the ♥J and ♥10. If partner has the ♣K, your cover costs a club trick, the setting trick! When partner’s lead shows no honor cards, dummy has a singleton honor, and you have a higher honor than dummy, cover if you can promote a second or third round trick for yourself. For example, cover holding the ♥K J or the ♥K 10. If you can’t promote at least a third round trick, play low.

Defensive commentary #2: As West, give count (♦4) when a diamond is played. As East, make sure you take four tricks in the minors, assuming you played low at trick one on the heart. Partner needs the ♣K to defeat the contract and you know two diamonds are cashing.

Play commentary: As South, If East covers the ♥Q, blow East a kiss, draw trumps and discard two clubs on the two high of hearts. Instead of losing two clubs, you lose only one and bag a miracle game.