

## N A B C SUMMER 2009 – WASHINGTON DC

### Thinking bridge (1) By Eddie Kantar

Dealer West Vul E-W	♠ AQ 9 4 ♥ A J 10 5 ♦ A 10 ♣ 10 9 2		WEST 1 Club Pass All Pass	NORTH X 3 Spade	EAST Pass Pass	SOUTH 2 Spade 4 Spade
♠ 8 6 3 ♥ 7 4 3 2 ♦ K Q 5 ♣ AK Q		♠ 2 ♥ Q 6 ♦ 9 8 7 6 4 3 2 ♣ 7 6 4				
	♠ K J 10 7 5 ♥ K 9 8 ♦ J ♣ J 8 5 3		Opening Lead : ♠A.			

**Bidding commentary:** North's takeout double with a doubleton in diamonds could work out badly, but he has a great hand for playing in a Major. South adds two extra points for a five-card major in response to a takeout double. In addition, the ♥K is worth extra facing presumed heart length and strength. On the other hand, both minor-suit jacks should be discounted. When the smoke clears, South logs in with 10 revalued points and makes a non-forcing jump to 2♠, showing 9 11. North's raise to 3♠ is invitational and South decides to go for it with his skewered distribution.

**Defensive commentary:** West cashes three clubs and shifts to the ♦K.

**Play commentary:** Once South sees that West has exactly three clubs, South knows that West must have a balanced hand (any time a player opens with a three-card minor, the hand must be balanced) and did not open 1NT. Why? West was either too strong (18-19 HCP) or too weak (12-14 HCP). South sees 24 high-card points between his hand and dummy, so West can't have 16 and not open 1NT. West has shown 9 HCP in clubs and presumably 5 in diamonds for 14 HCP. Ergo, East has the ♥Q. South plays East for the ♥Q and comes home a winner.

When opener is known to have opened 1♣ or 1♦ with a three-card suit, opener must have a balanced hand with either 12

-14 HCP or 18-19 HCP. With 15-17 the opening bid would be 1NT and with 20-21, 2NT.

Declarer uses these numbers in the play.