

N A B C SUMMER 2009 – WASHINGTON DC

Thinking bridge (2) - By Eddie Kantar

Dealer South Vul None	♠ — ♥ A Q 8 7 4 2 ♦ 7 4 3 ♣ AK 6 5		WEST 4 Spade	NORTH 6 Heart	EAST All Pass	SOUTH 1 Heart
♠ Q J 10 9 7 5 3 2 ♥ — ♦ K J 2 ♣ Q 9		♠ A 8 6 ♥ 6 5 ♦ 10 9 8 ♣ J 10 7 4 2				
	♠ K 4 ♥ K J 10 9 3 ♦ A Q 6 5 ♣ 8 3		Opening Lead : ♠ Q			

Bidding commentary: West's 4 ♠ overcall is the equivalent of a 4♣ opening bid. Facing a non-passed partner, it is preemptive, typically with an eight-card suit along with less than opening-bid values. North can cuebid 5♠, a grand slam try, or gamble that partner has something in diamonds and bid 6♥. North reasons that if West has strong spades, South figures to have outside strength, surely with something in diamonds.

Defensive commentary: Normal, though it doesn't work out very well.

Play commentary: As declarer, you should recognize this position: A suit has been led in which dummy is void and you have the guarded king. You can ruff the opening lead in dummy and not lose a trick in the suit that has been led, but you may lose two tricks in another suit (diamonds) if West has the ♦K. However, if you discard a diamond from dummy at trick one, East will win the ace and presumably return a diamond. You win the ace, draw trumps and discard dummy's remaining diamond on the ♠K. Instead of losing no spade tricks and possibly two diamond tricks, you lose one spade and zero diamond tricks. It's a wonderful tradeoff.

Play commentary #2: This type of loser on loser play can also be used when declarer has Q-Jx-(x) facing a void along with at least one slow side suit loser. Assuming a low card is led, a loser is discarded from dummy and the trick is lost. Later, the queen is led, and if the opening leader has the remaining honor, covered or not, declarer can get rid of that second loser.