

## N A B C SUMMER 2009 – WASHINGTON DC

### Thinking bridge - By Eddie Kantar

Dealer West Vul N-S	♠ A 9 5 4 ♥ J 9 3 ♦ Q 4 ♣ A 10 6 4		WEST Pass X All Pass	NORTH Pass 2 NT	EAST Pass Pass	SOUTH 1 Spade 3 Spade
♠ 6 2 ♥ A K Q 7 ♦ J 10 8 7 ♣ J 7 5		♠ K 3 ♥ 8 6 2 ♦ 9 5 3 2 ♣ K 9 8 3				
	♠ Q J 10 8 7 ♥ 10 5 4 ♦ A K 6 ♣ Q 2		Opening Lead : ♥A			

**Bidding commentary:** West's passed-hand takeout double shows 9-11 HCP, plus support for the unbid suits. In addition, West is likely to have four hearts, the unbid major. North's jump to 2NT is "conventional." It is the equivalent of a limit raise because a jump to 3♠ after a takeout double is considered preemptive. South, with a minimum and balanced hand (the pits), signs off at 3♠.

**Defensive commentary:** West cashes three hearts and shifts to the ♦J

**Play commentary:** As South, you see that West, a passed hand, has already turned up with 10 HCP, so East must have both black kings. There is still a chance. Win the ♦Q, cash the ♠A, continue with the ♦A and ♦K, stripping that suit, and exit a spade. On a good day, East will have ♠K x and be forced to return a club. Knowing East has the ♣K makes it easy to play the ♣Q and make the contract. If West is marked with the ♣K, play a low club from dummy hoping East has the jack.

If a passed hand turns up 10 HCP, play the partner for any missing queen, king or ace. If a passed hand turns up with 11

HCP, play the partner for any missing jack, queen, king or ace. If a passed hand turns up with 12 HCP, you are playing against a very conservative bidder!