

N A B C SUMMER 2009 – WASHINGTON DC

Thinking bridge (4) - By Eddie Kantar

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

Bidding commentary: After North cuebids the ♥A, South decides to give up on a grand slam as it is tough to discover if partner has both black queens.

Defensive commentary: : In spite of the heart cuebid, West's powerful heart sequence warrants a heart lead.

Play commentary: With a certain club loser, South needs to find East with the ♠Q, so the ♠J is led from dummy at trick two.

Defensive commentary #2: As East in second seat, do not cover the jack! When dummy has two equal honors, cover the second equal, not the first. Notice the difference. If the jack is covered, declarer wins, crosses back to the 10, sees West show out, and leads a low spade to the 8. You take zero spade tricks. If you duck the jack but cover the 10, declarer wins, partner shows out, but declarer cannot get back to dummy to finesse you out of your ♠9 4. Success! You wind up with a spade and a club trick.

As second hand, when dummy has a number of equal honors, cover the last equal. This is an important defensive principle.