

N A B C SUMMER 2009 – WASHINGTON DC

Thinking bridge (7) - By Eddie Kantar

Dealer South Vul Both	♠ Q8 ♥ 432 ♦ K65 ♣ 65432		WEST Pass All Pass	NORTH 1 NT	EAST Pass	SOUTH 1 Spade 4 Spade
♠ J42 ♥ 987 ♦ QJ102 ♣ KQ7		♠ 53 ♥ K1065 ♦ A98 ♣ J1098				
	♠ AK10976 ♥ AQJ ♦ 743 ♣ A		Opening Lead : ♦ Q Slightly stronger lead than ♣K, with 3 touching honors better than 2 touching honors			

Bidding commentary: North normally passes opening bid with 5 points but not this time. The ♠ Q is worth an extra point facing against at least 5 Spades in South hand. South with the next thing to 2 ♣ opening, jumps to game, worrying slightly about missing a slam! Ha Ha!

Defensive commentary: After cashing 3 Diamonds and assuming East winds up on lead, East shifts to ♣ J. If West winds up on lead, he shifts to ♣ K.

Play commentary: When a Q is lead through a King in dummy up to a known strong hand, it is as sure as death and taxes as Ace lies over the King. As declarer play low from dummy and play low again if the suit is continued. You are hoping third hand has A x.

Play commentary 2: South has lost three tricks and has to find East with ♥ K to make the contract. As it is likely that East has more than 2 Hearts, declarer must plan on taking 2 Heart finesses. Translation : 2 dummy entries are needed. And they are there – if declarer is willing to take a risk. Declarer must play a low Spade to the eight, hoping West has the ♠ J. Success. Now ♥ K has still to be with West. It is!. Declarer can finesse Heart twice and make the contract. The point is that it is worth a risk to go down an extra trick if the reward is making the contract. Play to make!