

N A B C SUMMER 2009 – WASHINGTON DC

Thinking bridge (9) - By Eddie Kantar

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

Bidding commentary: Facing a passed-hand partner, South does best to overcall 4♠. All North needs is the ♣K – even the ♣J may be enough! As a general rule, if you need a specific jack, queen or king in partner’s hand to make or have a good play for your contract, bid it! Partner isn’t going to know in a million years that he has the one perfect card you need.

Defensive commentary: East signals encouragement, and West continues with the ♦Q which South ruffs.

Play commentary: As South, when forced to ruff with a powerful trump holding, keep your lower trump for entry purposes. On this deal, if you ruff the second diamond low (ugh!), you can no longer get to dummy to take the club finesse even if spades break 2-2 or the 10 is singleton. However, if you ruff with the ♠9 (yes!) and then play the ♠A and ♠K, you can enter dummy with the ♠8 to take the club finesse. Also, be sure to lead the ♣J so you can stay in dummy if East doesn’t cover. Playing properly, you wind up with 10 tricks: six spades and four clubs. Treat your low card(s) that are attached to long, powerful, suits with respect. They may well be the most valuable cards in your hand.