

## THINKING BRIDGE (10)

### Eddie Kantar Spring 2017 Kansas

Dir: East		♠ A K 4 3	
Vul: N-S		♥ Q	
		♦ Q J 10 3 2	
		♣ Q J 10	
♠ 8 6		♠ 5 2	
♥ 9 4		♥ K 8 7 6 3 2	
♦ 8 5 4		♦ A K 9	
♣ K 9 8 7 6 3		♣ A 5	
		♠ Q J 10 9 7	
		♥ A J 10 5	
		♦ 7 6	
		♣ 4 2	
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	4♠	1♥	1♠
		All Pass	

**Opening lead:** ♥9.

**Bidding commentary:** North, with 16 support points (not counting the ♥Q), should venture game opposite a 1♠ overall.

**Defensive commentary:** East must decide what partner's is leading from to determine what declarer has in the suit. The lead is a likely top of a doubleton. With 9-x-x-(x) in an unsupported suit, partner leads low. If partner has a doubleton, declarer has the A-J-10-x. If you cover, declarer will eventually be able to discard two clubs from dummy on the ♥J and ♥10. If partner has the ♣K, your cover costs a club trick - the setting trick! When partner's lead shows no honor cards, dummy has a singleton honor and you have a higher honor than dummy, cover only if you can promote a second- or third-round trick for yourself. For example, cover holding the K-J or the K-10-x. If you can't promote at least a thirdround trick, play low.

**Play commentary:** If South does hold four hearts to the A-J-10, he will be very pleased to see East cover dummy's ♥Q. Declarer will win, draw trumps and cash his two heart winners, pitching clubs from dummy.

**Defensive commentary #2:** If East plays low on the ♥Q and declarer pulls trumps before leading a low diamond from hand, East will be relying on West to play a card indicating how many diamonds he has. Say West plays the ♦4. Looking at the ♦3 and ♦2 in dummy, East will know West has an odd number of diamonds, certainly three. That will mean South started with two, so both of East's high diamonds will cash. East can then play the ♣A and hope for an encouraging signal from West. On this deal, the defenders will take the four tricks in the minors they are due.