

## THINKING BRIDGE (9)

Eddie Kantar Spring 2017 Kansas

Dlr: South	♠ K Q 4 2		
Vul: E-W	♥ Q 8 5		
	♦ 10 6		
	♣ Q 6 3 2		
♠ J 10 9 8		♠ A 7 5	
♥ K 4 3		♥ 6 2	
♦ K J 9 7		♦ Q 8 5 3	
♣ 7 4		♣ K J 10 9	
	♠ 6 3		
	♥ A J 10 9 7		
	♦ A 4 2		
	♣ A 8 5		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	2♥	All Pass	1♥
Opening lead: ♠J.			

**Bidding commentary:** As North, you have a maximum raise to 2♥. It is not a good idea to start with 1♠ when holding four spades, three hearts and fewer than 10 HCP. If you do, and partner bids 2♣ or 2♦, you are not well placed. You aren't strong enough to jump to 3♥ (11-12 support points), and if you return to 2♥, you show a doubleton heart!

**Defensive commentary:** East wins the ♠A and asks himself how declarer can use this dummy profitably. There are three possibilities: (1) long-suit establishment; (2) ruffing losers; (3) neither (dummy is balanced). On this deal, long-suit establishment can be eliminated. If East has clubs under control, he should consider that declarer might be able to ruff diamonds in dummy. A trump switch is indicated. If declarer plays low and West (with three trumps) wins, he will exit with a second trump. If West gets in again when declarer plays on diamonds, West can play a third trump to kill the contract.

**Play commentary:** As South, if the defense plays a heart and a heart at tricks two and three, give up on trying to ruff a diamond and try to set up clubs instead. Lead a club to the queen and later the ace and a club, hoping for a 3-3 break. Sorry. Not this time. Even though you gave it your best shot, you are slated to lose two clubs, two diamonds and a trick in each major for one in the ashcan.

Note that East, an unpassed hand, is not strong enough to make a takeout double of 2♥. If East was a passed hand, he might chance it, but the double would be flawed lacking four spades.