

# THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

(From – NABC – SPRING – 2009 – HOUSTON - 6 )

Dir: North Vul: E-W	<b>NORTH</b> ♠ A 10 ♥ 10 4 3 2 ♦ A K Q 9 ♣ 6 5 4		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
				1 Diamond	Pass	1 Heart
			1 Spade	2 Heart	Pass	4 Heart
			All Pass			
<b>WEST</b> ♠ Q J 9 5 2 ♥ 8 6 ♦ 8 3 ♣ A Q J 3		<b>EAST</b> ♠ K 8 7 6 ♥ 9 7 5 ♦ 7 6 4 ♣ 10 7 2	Opening Lead = S Q			
	<b>SOUTH</b> ♠ 4 3 4 3 ♥ A K Q J ♦ J 10 5 2 ♣ K 9 8					

**Bidding commentary:** Playing support doubles, North's raise to 2♥ shows four hearts. A double of 1♠ would show three hearts. Not playing support doubles, a single raise (as many play) can show three or four hearts. In any case, South, with a double fit (an upgrade), has a clear cut 4♥ bid.

**Lead commentary:** Suits headed by the Q-J-9 are normally strong leads. East signals encouragement with the ♠8, the highest equal, at trick one.

**Play commentary:** The North-South hands have mirror (identical) distribution. Mirror distributions lead to strip and endplay strategies. Declarer wins the ♠A, draws trumps, strips diamonds from the opponents' hands and exits with a spade, hoping for something good to happen in clubs.

**Defensive commentary:** After declarer strips the hand and exits a spade, East wins the ♠K and has a lot of information. Partner has shown out on third round of each red suit and needs five spades for the overcall.

Translation: South has exactly three clubs, and three club tricks are needed to defeat the contract.

Furthermore, East can lead clubs only once. East must project West to have the A-Q-J-x and lead the ♣10. This lead prevents South from ducking the trick into West, forcing a club lead from the ace.