

THINKING BRIDGE - - By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC -Spring - 2014 - DALLAS - 1)

Dir: North Vul: Both	NORTH ♠ J1062 ♥ AQ9 ♦ KJ103 ♣ AK		West	North	East	South
			--	1 Diamond	1 Heart	1 Spade*
			4 Spade	All Pass		
* At least five spades						
WEST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣		EAST ♠ A ♥ K10874 ♦ A82 ♣ 98754	Opening Lead = ♥J			
	SOUTH ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣					

Opening lead: ♥J.

Declarer plays the queen from dummy and you win the king. Now what?

Solution: Return a heart right into the A-9! You can infer from the lead of the jack, looking at the 10, that partner has shortness. With J-x-x, partner would lead low. When in with the ♠A, give partner a heart ruff. The ♦A is the setting trick. If you don't give partner a heart ruff, you could easily lose your second heart winner on one of dummy's diamonds. If partner has a singleton heart (unlikely) you should return the ♥10, suit preference for diamonds. Might as well give partner two ruffs!

Note: As West, when looking for a ruff, play high-low in spades with three, the trump signal that you have another spade in case partner is wondering if you have another trump.

When partner leads an honor card and you can see the next lower honor, partner is leading from shortness. Defend accordingly.

The full deal:

Dir: North Vul: Both	NORTH ♠ J1062 ♥ AQ9 ♦ KJ103 ♣ AK	
WEST ♠ 873 ♥ J6 ♦ 974 ♣ Q632		EAST ♠ A ♥ K10874 ♦ A82 ♣ 98754
	SOUTH ♠ KQ954 ♥ 532 ♦ Q65 ♣ J10	