

THINKING BRIDGE

By **Eddie Kantar** >> Using the bidding as a guide to play and defense - part 5
(From - NABC Spring- 2015 - New Orleans bul 5)

Dir: North Vul: E-W	NORTH ♠ J ♥ AJ9 ♦ KJ10932 ♣ QJ8		West	North	East	South
			--	1 Siamond	Pass	1 Spade
			Pass	2 Diamond	Pass	2 Heart
			Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 Heart
			Pass	4 Heart	All Pass	
WEST ♠ 72 ♥ 543 ♦ Q74 ♣ AK753		EAST ♠ Q10986 ♥ 62 ♦ A865 ♣ 92	Opening Lead = ♣A			
	SOUTH ♠ AK543 ♥ KQ1087 ♦ Void ♣ 1064					

Bidding commentary: Notice that North does not raise hearts directly. A direct raise of a second suit is supposed to promise four-card support in blood! South completes the picture of his majorsuit distribution and, now knowing of an eight-card heart fit, North bids 4♥.

Defensive commentary: You (East) signal high-low to show a doubleton club and ruff the third round of the suit.

Now comes the crucial play. You (and partner) know that South is 5-5 in the majors and has turned up with three clubs, indicating a diamond void. Diamonds cannot be established, so what is declarer going to do with those five spades probably headed by the A-K?

Answer: He is going to ruff the three low ones in dummy ... if you don't lead a trump, South will take the last 10 tricks of the deal by cashing his high spades, ruffing spades three times in dummy and scoring his five trumps in hand. A trump return forces declarer to use two trumps on the same trick, limiting him to two spade ruffs in dummy and nine tricks overall.

Play commentary: If East fails to return a trump at trick four, cash the ♠A and ♠K and crossruff for 10 tricks.