

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar >> Using the bidding as a guide to play and defense
 (From - NABC Spring- 2015 - New Orleans bul 9)

Dir: East Vul: E-W	NORTH ♠ KJ43 ♥ K965 ♦ 642 ♣ A7		West	North	East	South
			--	--	3 Club	4 Heart
			Pass	5 Club	Pass	6 Heart
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ 10876 ♥ 3 ♦ KJ875 ♣ 864		EAST ♠ Q92 ♥ 8 ♦ 109 ♣ KQJ10953	Opening Lead = ♣4			
	SOUTH ♠ A5 ♥ AQJ10742 ♦ AQ3 ♣ 2					

Bidding commentary: East's preempt is normal, and your 4♥ bid shows a big hand. When the bid to your right is weak, a jump by you is strong. Partner's 5♣ is a slam try and you accept

Defensive commentary: Notice the lead of the ♣4, low from three in an unsupported suit. Had West supported, the lead would be the ♣8

Play commentary: After winning the ♣A, draw trumps and ruff a club. Now your best chance to avoid two diamond losers is to play the ♠A ♠K and ruff a spade, dropping the queen 37% of the time. As it happens, the ♠J is good for a diamond discard and you are playing for an overtrick. If the ♠Q doesn't appear, cross to dummy with a trump and lead the ♠J. East, the 3♣ bidder, figures to show out, so discard a diamond, a loser on loser play. After West takes the trick, he has no safe return.