

# THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC - Summer 2011 Toronto-Canada -Eddie kantar 2 )

Dir: South Vul: None	NORTH ♠ K 5 4 ♥ A J 9 3 2 ♦ 10 9 ♣ Q 3 2		West	North	East	South
			--	--	--	1 Club
			Pass	1 Heart	Pass	2 NT
			Pass	3 NT	All Pass	
WEST ♠ A 9 8 6 ♥ 10 7 ♦ A 6 4 2 ♣ 9 7 6		EAST ♠ Q 3 2 ♥ 7 6 5 ♦ Q J 8 7 5 ♣ 8 5				
	SOUTH ♠ J 10 7 ♥ K Q 8 ♦ K 4 ♣ A K J 10 4					

**Opening lead:** > ♥6. Lead a major before a minor with two four-card suits of relatively equal strength.

**Bidding commentary:** As South, your hand should be revalued to 18 points given the strong five-card suit. Balanced hands with 17 high-card points and a strong five-card suit are too strong to open 1NT and should open the five-card suit intending to jump in notrump next. As North, raise to 3NT with balanced distribution rather than rebid the five-card heart suit. It is an exception to rebid a five-card suit in this sequence. Normally the rebid shows a six-card suit. If the suit is exceptionally strong (K-QJ-10-x) it can be treated as a six-card suit. There are checkback methods available for North to find out if you have three hearts.

**Defensive commentary:** As East, if declarer plays low at trick one, win the queen and shift to the ♦Q. Partner is marked with four spades, probably including the ace, which means the most your side can get is three spades tricks if you return the suit. Partner must have some outside honor card and your best chance is to hope it is the ♦A. If declarer started with 17 HCP, partner could have the ♦A.

**Play commentary:** As West, you have 10 sure tricks between clubs and hearts once you get in, and you can't stand a diamond shift from East, so go up with the ♥K to reduce the chance of East getting in.