

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC SUMMER 2011 CANADA - Eddie Kantar 3)

Dir: North Vul: -E - W	NORTH ♠ 10 4 2 ♥ K Q ♦ 4 2 ♣ A Q J 9 4 3		West	North	East	South
			--	1 Club	Pass	1 Heart
			Pass	2 Club	Pass	3 NT
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ Q 8 6 ♥ 9 4 ♦ Q 9 8 5 3 ♣ 6 5 2		EAST ♠ A 9 3 ♥ 8 7 6 5 3 ♦ K 10 6 ♣ K 7	Opening Lead = ♦5.			
	SOUTH ♠ K J 7 5 ♥ A J 10 2 ♦ A J 7 ♣ 10 8					

Bidding commentary: East is strong enough, at least in terms of high-card points, to overcall 1♥, but the suit is so emaciated! As South, respond 1♥ with four hearts and four spades. If partner doesn't rebid 1♠, the inference is that partner does not have four spades. Note that some players rebid 1NT with a 4-3-3-3 hand pattern and do not deny four spades. With 5-5 in the majors, start with 1♠ and bid and rebid hearts if you are strong enough.

Defensive commentary: As East, play the ♦K, third hand high when dummy has low cards. Don't even think of playing the 10! If the king holds, return the 10, the higher of two remaining cards. When you later get in with the ♣K, and assuming you have no diamonds left, shift to a low spade, trying to get partner in to cash those two remaining diamonds. As West, after winning the ♦Q at trick two, if you shift to a low spade and partner wins and returns a spade, you defeat the contract. Nobody in any of my classes has ever done this.

Play commentary: As South, the club finesse is headed into East (who has denied the ♦Q with the play of the king, so hold up in diamonds to deplete East of diamonds in case he has the ♣K. (Murphy's Law: East will have the ♣K). After the holdup play and the losing club finesse, rise with the ♠K when West shifts to a low spade. Why? You can't make the contract if West has the ♠A, so play East for it! When one opponent has the setting trick(s) and you are missing an ace, play the opponent who does not have the setting trick(s) for the ace. Makes sense, doesn't it?