

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC -FALLS 2006 - HONOLULU - HAWAII-9-25-11-2006)

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

Bidding commentary: West's passed-hand takeout double shows 9-11 HCP plus heart shortness. South's hand, though powerful, is somewhat diminished because the ♠ K appears to be with West given the double. On the plus side, South adds 3 extra points for a supported six-card suit and has enough to bid game.

Defensive commentary: West continues with a low diamond at trick two and East cashes the ♦ A and ♦ J before shifting to a spade

Play commentary: After the opponents cash three diamonds, East exits with a spade.

As South, you should not consider the spade finesse given the bidding and those clubs in dummy which can be set up easily enough. Finesses are for peasants when there is a long suit in the dummy. The trick is to set up the long suit at once before depleting dummy's entries, and don't forget to count the suit you are establishing! You have seven clubs, they have six.

After you play the ♣ A and a club to the king, they have two clubs left. Ruff a club, and when East shows out, they have one club left. Enter dummy with a trump and ruff another club, setting up dummy's last club. Now draw trumps, ending in dummy and discard your ♠ Q on dummy's remaining club. Good work!