

THINKING BRIDGE - - By Eddie Kantar
(From - NABC -FALL - SANFRANCISCO- 2012 -5)

Dir: North Vul: E-W	NORTH ♠ Q J 10 9 ♥ J 10 9 8 ♦ K Q ♣ K Q 4		West	North	East	South
			-	1 Club	Pass	1 Spade
			Pass	2 Spade	Pass	4 Spade
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ A 6 5 ♥ A 6 ♦ 10 6 4 3 ♣ 8 7 6 5	27-11-2012	EAST ♠ 2 ♥ 5 4 3 2 ♦ J 8 7 5 2 ♣ A 3 2	Opening Lead = ♥A.			
	SOUTH ♠ K 8 7 4 3 ♥ K Q 7 ♦ A 9 ♣ J 10 9					

Bidding commentary: If the bidding didn't go this way, don't mention it in public.

Lead commentary: As West, the best time to lead from shortness is when holding trump control - e.g., A-x, A-x-x, K-x-x. In this case, you can visualize defeating the contract if partner has the ♥K (immediate ruff) or a minor-suit ace, in which case you will put partner in after winning the ♠A and get a ruff.

Play commentary: As South, win the ♥K at trick two (higher equal for deceptive purposes) and lead a spade.

Defensive commentary: As West, if South leads a spade at trick three, no point in rushing up with the ace. You would do that if you had a doubleton ace, but in this case partner might have a singleton king! If you did start with the doubleton ♠A, you would have to win and guess which ace partner has. On the actual layout, if partner has a singleton spade, his discard on the second spade will tell you what you need to know.

Defensive commentary: As East, discard the ♦2 on the second spade, discouraging. You have been cursed with such terrible club spots that partner might not read the ♣3 as encouraging! If, for one of many reasons, you cannot signal encouragement in one suit, signal discouragement in the other. It's six of one, a half dozen of the other. Assuming partner is breathing and shifts to a club upon winning the second spade, you win and give partner a heart ruff.

Note: Some play "upsidedown" attitude signals. Using this method, a low card is an encouraging signal and a high card is discouraging. Be familiar with your opponents' signaling methods.