

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC -FALL - 2014 - PROVIDENCE - RHODE ISLAND - 8)

Dir: West Vul: Both	NORTH ♠ KJ104 ♥ 632 ♦ 752 ♣ A94		West	North	East	South
			Pass	Pass	Pass	1 Heart
			X	2 Heart	Pass	4 Heart
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ 9752 ♥ Q ♦ AQ63 ♣ QJ107		EAST ♠ 83 ♥ J108 ♦ J108 ♣ K8532	Opening Lead = ♣Q			
	SOUTH ♠ AQ6 ♥ AK9753 ♦ K94 ♣ 6					

Bidding commentary: West has a normal passed-hand takeout double: 9-11 high-card points with shortness in opener's suit. South's hand loses a little of its luster after the double because the ♠Q and ♦K may not be as good as they look. As it happens, the ♠Q is working but the ♦K may be in jeopardy.

Play commentary: For South, there is good news and bad news. The good news is that dummy's ♠A is facing your singleton, so nothing is wasted there. More good news is that the North's spades will surely afford a diamond discard for declarer. can get in early to lead a diamond through your king, you could lose three diamond tricks. Consider East the danger hand.

Further play commentary: The only way East can get in to lead a diamond is with a trump. For example, if you play the ♥A and the ♥K and East winds up with a winning heart, you are probably going down. When you try to pitch a diamond on a spade, East ruffs the third spade and fires the ♦J through your king. Curtains for you.

The answer is to try to make sure that East doesn't get in with a heart. At trick two, lead a low heart from dummy. If East plays the 8, insert the 9 West wins, but cannot put East in for a diamond play and you emerge with 10 tricks: five hearts, four spades and the ♠A. Had East played a heart honor at trick two, win the king (noting the fall of West's queen), lead a low spade to the jack (or the queen to the king) and lead a second heart. If East plays the 8, insert the 9. If East plays a second honor, win the ace and hope hearts are 2-2. If East shows out, play the ♥A and a heart giving up the lead to West and you have your 10 tricks.

Declarer is in trouble if East holds Q-J-10 or Q-J-10-8, but with the latter holding East might have doubled the final contract.