

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

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| | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|------------|-------------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Dir: East Vul: None | NORTH | | West | North | East | South |
| | ♠ 5 3 | | -- | -- | 1 Diamond | X |
| | ♥ J 2 | | Pass | Pass | XX | Pass |
| | ♦ A J 10 9 4 3 | | 1 Spade | Pass | Pass | 1 NT |
| | ♣ A Q 5 | | Pass | 3 NT | All Pass | |
| WEST | | EAST | Opening Lead = ♠9 | | | |
| ♠ 9 8 7 6 | | ♠ A J 10 4 | | | | |
| ♥ 8 4 3 | | ♥ A Q 10 9 | | | | |
| ♦ 8 7 | | ♦ Q 6 5 | | | | |
| ♣ J 9 8 6 | | ♣ 10 4 | | | | |
| | SOUTH | | | | | |
| | ♠ K Q 2 | | | | | |
| | ♥ K 7 6 5 | | | | | |
| | ♦ K 2 | | | | | |
| | ♣ K 7 3 2 | | | | | |

Bidding commentary: As East, after North's penalty pass of South's takeout double indicating diamonds from here to China, your redouble is for rescue. Partner must bid something, and you hope it will be at the one level. As West, bid 1♠ in something resembling a normal ton of voice. North's pass after the 1♠ bid is forcing. You try 1NT to describe a minimum double with spades stopped. North raises to 3NT, a sensible action.

Lead commentary: As West, you can infer from East's SOS redouble that he has support for at least two of the unbid suits, so lead a spade, the 9, to be exact.

Defensive commentary: As East, you can read the lead as a top card, meaning that South has the king and the queen. Your best bet is to win the ♠A and lead the ♥A and ♥Q (or the queen originally) establishing the setting tricks in hearts once the king is driven out - if you can just get in again, hopefully with the ♦Q.

Play commentary: After winning the ♥K (if East plays the ace and queen, win the third heart) you can see 26 high-card points between your hand and dummy, leaving East-West with 14. East, the opening bidder, is a strong favorite to be looking at the ♦Q. Accordingly, cross to a club honor and run the ♦J, an honor that East should not cover...please! As it happens, East has the expected ♦Q, diamonds break 3-2 and you have the rest of the tricks. Had West the ♦Q, winning the third heart prevents West from leading a heart.