

# THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC - Spring 2011-Louisville-Kentucky 7)

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

**Bidding commentary:** As West, it is wiser not to redouble with 11+ HCP when you have a two-suited hand. It is wiser to simply making a forcing bid at the one level with the intention of bidding your other suit next. You want to get both suits in before competition starts and this is the best way. A one-level response after a takeout double is unlimited and should be treated as if second hand has passed. As North, once West bids, you are off the hook and should be happy to pass. East's 2♣ bid is natural and not forcing. As West, your jump raise to 4♣, bypassing 3NT, is both forcing and slam invitational. East, with a minimum, signs off in 5♣.

**Defensive commentary:** As South, shift to a trump at trick two rather than set up declarer's ♠Q, a card partner doesn't have given the negative signal at trick one.

**Play commentary:** As East, with high trumps and short suits on both sides, think "crossruff." Start by counting your top tricks. You have the club trick that you have just taken plus both red aces for three. Next, count the trump tricks available. You remain with four trumps in dummy facing three in your hand all of which can be made separately. Bottom line: you start with three top tricks and can make seven more trump tricks by crossruffing. You are short one trick, so you need the heart finesse. After you take the heart finesse and it wins, cash the ♥A, discarding a spade, cash the ♦A and merrily ruff diamonds and hearts back and forth for 11 tricks.