

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

Bidding commentary: South's sequence can be compared to a weak two-bid opening. If North even thinks of bidding again, it's an overbid. A rebid of 2NT with a singleton in partner's main suit and no suit of one's own to establish shows about 17 high-card points – or a maniacal intent to play the hand.

Lead commentary: The normal lead is the unbid suit, but when holding the ace, it is usually better to look elsewhere, such the spade sequence.

Play commentary: Basically, the contract depends upon the play of the heart suit. The best play for one loser is the ♥A and ♥K, hoping an honor drops. If it doesn't, the next hope is a 3-3 break. Also, declarer should lead up to dummy's clubs before playing diamonds. If West has the ♣A, a diamond can be discarded on a winning club.

Defensive commentary: If East gets in before diamonds have been played, he should lead the ♦J to set up two diamond tricks before West's ♣A is removed. As a general rule when declarer leads up to a K-Q-x-(x) combination, second hand, holding the ace, should play low the first time. This forces declarer to return to hand to lead the suit again. If declarer has two clubs and dummy no sure sidesuit entry, winning the second club could save a trick