

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar
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Dir: North Vul: E-W	NORTH ♠ J 8 5 4 ♥ Q 8 ♦ A J 9 5 4 ♣ A 6		West	North	East	South
			--	1 Diamond	Pass	1 Heart
			Pass	1 Spade	Pass	3 Heart
			Pass	4 Heart	All Pass	
WEST ♠ A Q 2 ♥ 2 ♦ Q 8 7 6 ♣ Q 10 8 7 2	12-03-2008	EAST ♠ K 10 9 6 ♥ J 5 4 3 ♦ K 10 3 ♣ J 3	Opening Lead = ♣7.			
	SOUTH ♠ 7 3 ♥ A K 10 9 7 6 ♦ 2 ♣ K 9 5 4					

Bidding commentary: South's jump rebid of 3♥ is not forcing. It shows six or seven hearts with 9-11 high-card points. North has a minimum opening bid, but he does have three wonderful cards for South: two aces and the ♥Q, a card worth its weight in gold facing serious length. North has a no-brainer raise to 4♥. Aces and a fitting honor(s) in partner's long suit(s) are just what the doctor ordered.

Defensive commentary: When there are three bid suits, lead the unbid suit if no other lead stands out.

Play commentary: Counting tricks, South appears to have nine: six hearts, two clubs and one diamond. An extra trick or two might be secured by ruffing clubs in dummy. Counting losers, South has two spade losers and two possible club losers. Nothing can be done about the spade losers, but the club losers can be ruffed in dummy.

Are there problems? There are always problems. If the first club is ruffed low and East overruffs and returns a trump, South winds up losing four tricks: two spades, the overruff and eventually a club. To avoid this embarrassment, declarer should ruff the third club with the ♥Q and the fourth club with the ♥8. If the fourth club is overruffed with the jack, South still has 10 tricks: six hearts, one diamond, two clubs and one club ruff in dummy.

Sometimes with two losers to ruff, it is right to ruff the first one high and the second one low, particularly if there is a danger of an early overruff.