

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar
(From - NABC Spring 2008 - Detroit - Michiga - 7)

Dir: South Vul: Both	NORTH ♠ Q 8 ♥ 4 3 2 ♦ K 6 5 ♣ 6 5 4 3 2		West	North	East	South
			--	--	--	1 Spade
			Pass	1 NT	Pass	4 Spade
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ J 4 2 ♥ 9 8 7 ♦ Q J 10 2 ♣ K Q 7		EAST ♠ 5 3 ♥ K 10 6 5 ♦ A 9 8 ♣ J 10 9 8	Opening Lead = ♦Q. This is a slightly stronger lead than the ♣K (three touching honors versus two touching honors			
	SOUTH ♠ A K 10 9 7 6 ♥ A Q J ♦ 7 4 3 ♣ A					

Bidding commentary: North normally passes an opening bid with 5 high-card points, but not this time. The ♠Q is worth an extra point facing at least five spades in the South hand. South, with the next thing to a 2♣ opening, jumps to game, worrying slightly about missing a slam! Ha, ha!

Play commentary: When a queen is led through a king in dummy up to a known strong hand, it is as sure as death and taxes that the ace lies over the king. As declarer, play low from dummy and play low again if the suit is continued. You are hoping third hand started with a doubleton ♦A.

Defensive commentary: After cashing three diamonds, and assuming East winds up on lead, East shifts to the ♣J. If West winds up on lead, he shifts to the ♣K.

Play commentary #2: South has lost three tricks and needs to find East with the ♥K to make the contract. As it is likely that East has more than two hearts, declarer must plan on taking two heart finesses.

Translation: Two dummy entries are needed. They are there - if declarer is willing to take a risk. Declarer must lead a low spade to the 8, hoping West has the ♠J. Success! Now the ♥K still has be with East. It is! Declarer can finesse hearts twice and make the contract. The point is that it is worth a risk to go down an extra trick if the reward is making your contract. Play to make