

**THINKING BRIDGE** -- By Eddie Kantar  
(From - NABC -Spring 2009-Detroit-Michigan 8 )

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

**Bidding commentary:** Responder should not think twice about responding 1♥ or 1♠ to an opening bid with 5 high-card points and a five-card major. Do it! However, after the 1♥ response, South shouldn't give any real thought to bidding 4♥. The North hand counts to 17 support points (forget the ♣J). North has 15 HCP plus one support point for each doubleton. The jump raise promises 16-18 support points, so North is on target. East, a passed hand, has a perfect takeout double if North opens 1♥, but he can't come in intelligently over the 1♦ bid. A double is out of the question with a singleton in an unbid major, and overcalling on a crummy four-card suit is also off the wall.

**Defensive commentary:** After East cashes two spades, he shifts to a low club rather than the ace. After all, declarer may have the king and misguess by playing low, thus losing two club tricks. As it happens, West has the king and returns the ♣3 (original fourth best showing four clubs) to East, who gets out with a club to South's queen. South must have the queen as West won trick three with ♣K, denying the queen. Defenders take tricks with the lower or lowest equal.

**Play commentary:** South has to find the ♥Q holding nine trumps between the two hands. We've come too far to play by nursery rhymes. East, a passed hand, has turned up with the ♠AQ plus the ♠A for a total of 10 HCP. Most players open 12-point hands these days, so it is odds on that West has the ♥Q. South does best to cash the ♥K and lead a heart to the jack.