

THINKING BRIDGE - - By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC -Spring - 2016 - Reno 10)

Dir: South Vul: E-W	NORTH ♠ KQ5 ♥ KJ6 ♦ A76 ♣ K972		West	North	East	South
			--	--	--	1 Cub
			Pass	3 NT (1)	Pass	6 Club
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣		EAST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	Opening Lead = ♣3 (1) Balanced 15-17			
	SOUTH ♠ -- ♥ A75 ♦ KJ9 ♣ AQJ10865					

Opening lead: ♣3. East follows when you play the ♣7.

How would you play this contract at IMP scoring?

How would you play at matchpoints?

At IMP scoring, you are looking at a certain 12 tricks and a possible 13. All you have to do is play the ♠K from dummy at trick two. If East plays low, discard a heart. Assuming West wins the ♠A, use the ♠Q to discard a diamond, your only other possible loser.

If East covers the ♠K, ruff and cross to dummy with a trump to discard a heart on the ♠Q. Now you can take either red-suit finesse for an overtrick with no risk.

At matchpoints, play the same because it gives you a chance to make an overtrick with no risk. Alternatively, if you decide to take two red-suit finesses, not touching spades, you will make an overtrick 25% of the time (both finesses working) go down 25% of the time (both finesses losing) and break even 50% of the time (one finesse winning, one finesse losing).