

THINKING BRIDGE - - By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC -Spring - 2016 - Reno - 4)

Dir: West Vul: N-S	NORTH ♠ 32 ♥ J843 ♦ J7643 ♣ K8		West	North	East	South
			1	Pass	4 Diamond(2)	4 S
			NT(1)			
			X	All Pass		
WEST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣		EAST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	Opening Lead = ♥A (1) 15-17 (2) Transfer to hearts			
	SOUTH ♠ KQJ98764 ♥ 5 ♦ 8 ♣ AQ5					

You are playing in a pairs event. East signals encouragement with the ♥7 and West continues with the ♥K, East playing the ♥3. Would your plan for this contract be any different at IMP scoring?

This contract should be played identically at either form of scoring. The danger is that West has the outstanding three trumps, and after you ruff the ♥K at trick two and lead the ♠K, West will win, get an encouraging diamond discard from East and underlead his likely ♦A to East's king. Now a third heart from East promotes West's ♠10 to the setting trick. The answer is to discard the ♦8 at trick two. Now West cannot get East in for a heart play to promote his ♠10. You wind up living happily ever after, losing two hearts and a spade rather than one heart, one diamond and two spades!

Dir: West Vul: N-S	NORTH ♠ 32 ♥ J843 ♦ J7643 ♣ K8	
WEST ♠ A105 ♥ AK ♦ AQ52 ♣ 9764		EAST ♠ -- ♥ Q109872 ♦ K109 ♣ J1032
	SOUTH ♠ KQJ98764 ♥ 5 ♦ 8 ♣ AQ5	