

THINKING BRIDGE - - By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC -Springr - 2016 - Reno - 6)

Dir: North Vul: E-W	NORTH ♠ AJ82 ♥ 4 ♦ K54 ♣ KJ1054		West	North	East	South
			--	1 Club	Pass	1 Diamond
			Pass	1 Spade	Pass	3 NT
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣		EAST ♠ ♥ ♦ ♣	Opening Lead = ♥Q			
	SOUTH ♠ 1093 ♥ AK3 ♦ Q732 ♣ AQ9					

Not everyone would have responded with 1 Diamond with the South hand. Depending upon system, some might have tried 2NT, others 3NT. In any case, all roads would have led to Rome.

Opening lead: ♥Q

1. How would you play this hand at IMPs (safety first)?
2. How would you play this hand at matchpoints, where reasonable risks for overtricks are encouraged?

At IMPs, win the ♥K and lead the ♠10. If it is covered, you can set up spades and make an overtrick; If it is not covered, rise with the ace and lead a diamond, setting up your ninth trick in that suit. This is a 100% line of play.

At matchpoints, go for the overtrick by taking two spade finesses if necessary. You have a 75% chance of taking three spade tricks - 10 tricks in all - with relatively minimal risk.