

THINKING BRIDGE - - By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC -Summer - 2015 - Chicago - Illinois - 1)

Dir: West Vul: E-W	NORTH ♠ J432 ♥ KJ87 ♦ Q2 ♣ 762		West	North	East	South
			Pass	Pass	Pass	1 Diamond
			Pass	1 Heart	Pass	2 Heart
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ AK7 ♥ Q5 ♦ 9854 ♣ 10983		EAST ♠ 9865 ♥ 642 ♦ A76 ♣ AK4	Opening Lead = ♣A			
	SOUTH ♠ Q10 ♥ A1093 ♦ KJ103 ♣ QJ5					

Bidding Commentary: Neither West, North nor East has an opening bid. True, East is in third seat and can open a bit light, but it is hazardous to open a balanced minimum on a three-card suit plus losers as far as the eye can see. And let's not forget the vulnerability.

Defensive Commentary: As East, you might cash two clubs or shift to a spade before cashing a second club. What you don't want to do is lead a heart as partner may have the queen. Leading a diamond doesn't look too cool either, particularly if declarer has the queen. If you shift to a spade, West will cash two spades and exit a club.

Play Commentary: You are playing against two opponents that have passed originally. Assuming you have lost four black suit tricks, you have seen East show up with the ♣A K (7 HCP) and East with the ♠A K (7 HCP). If you drive out the ♦A, whoever takes the trick will have turned up with 11 HCP so that player's partner must hold the ♥Q. Using the bidding: neat.