

THINKING BRIDGE - - By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC -Summer - 2015 - Chicago - Illinois 2)

Using the bidding as a guide to play and defense

Dir: East Vul: N-S	NORTH ♠ 86 ♥ K1032 ♦ 765 ♣ AK65		West	North	East	South
			--	--	2 Diamond	2 NT
			Pass	3 Club	Pass	3 Heart
			Pass	4 Heart	All Pass	
			• Weak			
WEST ♠ K10754 ♥ 64 ♦ 82 ♣ 10983		EAST ♠ J32 ♥ 85 ♦ AKJ109 ♣ J42	Opening Lead = ♦8			
	SOUTH ♠ AQ9 ♥ AQJ97 ♦ Q43 ♣ Q7					

Bidding Commentary: East decided to mention his powerful suit before it got lost in the shuffle. Suits headed by 100 honors are allowed a certain certain leeway, particularly when not vulnerable.

Defensive Commentary: As East, win the first two tricks with the ♦K A and return the ♦9, your lowest diamond, asking for a club rather than a spade return, the lesser of evils. If West watches the spot cards closely, he will know that the 9 is partner's lowest diamond and shift to the ♣10 after ruffing the diamond return.

Play Commentary: East, who has opened a weak two-bid in diamonds, has turned up with 8 HCP in diamonds plus the presumed ♣J from West's return of the ♣10. If he had the ♠K as well, East would have opened the bidding at the one level. So, as South, what are you going to do about it? Why not cash all of your hearts, reducing to a club and three spades, dummy keeping three clubs and one spade? If West started with four or more clubs and the ♠K, the last heart will squeeze him to a pulp. He will be forced to blank his ♠K to hold three clubs, and you will pick it off. Or you can cash the ♠A before the last trump and watch West squirm. Look, you don't have to know anything about squeezes to find this play. You know that ♠K is on your left, so your only shot is to run your winners and hope that West is guarding spades and clubs. Do it!