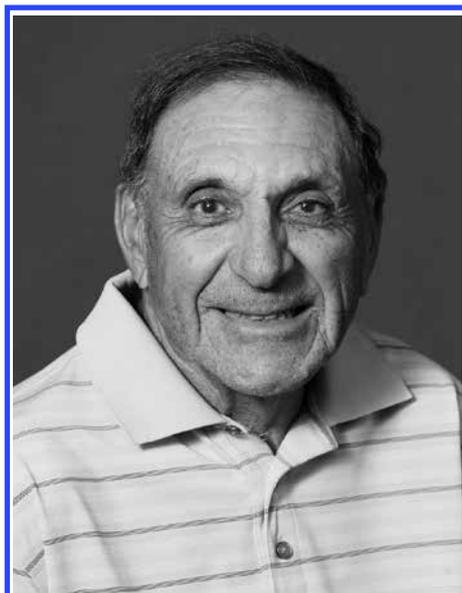


**NABC - Summer 2018 - Atlanta**  
**Thinking bridge By Eddie Kantar -6**



**Hand evaluation. Responder's rebid. Third-hand play. Counting your tricks.**

|                          |              |             |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Dir: South               | ♠ A 4        |             |              |
| Vul: E-W                 | ♥ J 8 6 4 2  |             |              |
|                          | ♦ 9 3        |             |              |
|                          | ♣ K 6 5 3    |             |              |
|                          | ♠ Q J 8 3    | ♠ 9 6       |              |
|                          | ♥ 10 5       | ♥ K Q 9     |              |
|                          | ♦ J 7 4      | ♦ Q 10 8 2  |              |
|                          | ♣ Q J 10 2   | ♣ A 9 8 7   |              |
|                          | ♠ K 10 7 5 2 |             |              |
|                          | ♥ A 7 3      |             |              |
|                          | ♦ A K 6 5    |             |              |
|                          | ♣ 4          |             |              |
| <i>West</i>              | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
| Pass                     | 1NT          | Pass        | 1♠           |
| Pass                     | 2♠           | All Pass    | 2♦           |
| <b>Opening lead: ♣Q.</b> |              |             |              |

**Bidding commentary:** As South, partner's bidding shows two spades, not three. Partner usually supports directly with three trumps. To bid on in this sequence requires 16+ HCP. But if you are strong enough to bid again with this distribution, try 3♥ to show a singleton club as well three hearts (your 2♦ rebid has denied four hearts) catering to a possible five hearts in partner's hand. As North, holding two spades, a 2♥ rebid after partner bids 2♦ shows six hearts, exceptionally, five headed by three of the top four honor cards. Opener can pass 2♥ with a singleton heart.

**Defensive commentary:** As East, if declarer plays low at trick one, signal encouragement with the ♣9, your highest equal spot card. Signaling with the ♣8 denies the ♣9!

**Play commentary:** With the ♣A marked on your right, duck the first club, ruff the club honor return and try to make as many low trumps as you can. Play the ♦A and ♦K, ruff a diamond low, ruff a club, ruff a diamond with the ♠A and lead dummy's last club. If West still has a club, you can ruff, your seventh trick. The ♠K and ♥A bring your trick total to nine. Don't worry about ruffing a diamond with the ♠A, it's a loser in any case and it provides you with a dummy entry to ruff a club.

**Defensive commentary:** Defenders often give count when declarer initiates a suit (diamonds). However, when the count in the suit is known (diamonds is declarer's second-bid suit), giving count is counter-productive. As West, if declarer plays a fourth diamond, intending to ruff with dummy's ♠A, discard your last club. Now declarer cannot enjoy a third club ruff and is held to eight tricks