Beginners’ Lesson 10: Strong Opening Bids

**Board 1**
North Deals: None Vul

- **North:** ♠ A Q 3, ♦ K 5, ♥ K Q 4, ♣ J 10 9 7 6 4 2, ♠ J 10 9 7 5 4 3 2
- **South:** ♠ J 6 2, ♦ K 4, ♥ Q 2, ♣ 10 8 3

North shows 2 NT by North shows 20-22 balanced and South’s 3 ♠ promises exactly 5 spades.

North knows they have a fit, so bids 4 ♠ rather than 3 NT.

Lead is ♦ 10.

**Board 5**
North Deals: None Vul

- **North:** ♠ A K J 8 6 3, ♦ A K J 4, ♥ A Q, ♣ 5
- **South:** ♠ Q 9 5, ♦ 10 7 5, ♥ 9 7 6, ♣ A 9 8 2

North’s 2 ♠ is a game force bid. 2 ♠ by South shows 0-7 HCP. North’s 2 ♠ bid shows at least 5 spades.

South must not pass, so bids to game 4 ♠

Lead is ♣ J K.

**Board 2**
East Deals: Both Vul

- **North:** ♠ 8 6 4, ♦ 6 4 3, ♥ 10 9 7 4, ♣ A K 7
- **South:** ♠ Q 10 2, ♦ K 6 4, ♥ J 10 9 8, ♣ A 6 2

West’s 6 points are enough to bid game.

Declarer should use the diamond entries to double finesse in hearts.

Win the ♦ K and run the ♥ 10 which will lose to the ♥ K.

Lead is ♦ J.

**Board 6**
East Deals: Both Vul

- **North:** ♠ 9 7 2, ♦ 7, ♥ J 10 7 4, ♣ Q J 9 8 3
- **South:** ♠ K 10 5, ♦ Q 4 2, ♥ 3, ♣ A K 10 7 4 2

Once the heart fit is found, West knows there are at least 32 points between the 2 hands. West should bid 4 NT to ask for aces and then bid the heart slam.

After East’s game force bid, West bids 3 ♠ to show 8+ HCP.

Lead is ♠ Q.

**Board 3**
South Deals: N-S Vul

- **North:** ♠ Q J 9 7 5 3, ♦ 4 2, ♥ 7 5 2, ♣ 9 6
- **South:** ♠ 6 4, ♦ Q J 10 8, ♥ A J 6 3, ♣ 10 8 3

North must bid 2 ♠ first to show a weak hand of 0-7 HCP. After that, the bidding is natural and North bids 4 ♠ once partner has shown a balanced hand which must have at least 2 spades.

Lead is ♦ Q.

**Board 7**
South Deals: N-S Vul

- **North:** ♠ 9 8 3 2, ♦ 10 6 4, ♥ J 3, ♣ 8 7 5 4
- **South:** ♠ 10 5 4 3 2, ♥ 9 8 7 5, ♣ K Q J 10 2

After South’s 2 ♠, East should bid the heart fit (to 3 ♠) and then bid the heart slam.

North may not like it but 2 ♠ is forcing to game. South’s 2 ♥ promises a 5-card suit, so once the heart fit is found, North bids to game as quickly as possible, showing no interest in slam.

Lead is ♠ K.

**Board 4**
West Deals: Both Vul

- **North:** ♠ A Q 6 3 2, ♦ Q 10 8 4 3 2, ♥ 8, ♣ 7 3
- **South:** ♠ J 10 9 7 5 4 3 2, ♥ 6 5, ♣ A Q 10 9 7 5 4 2

West has plenty of HCP to bid game and shows two suits at least 5/5, giving East the choice of which one to play in.

Lead is ♦ 6.

Declarer should draw trumps then play on spades.

**Board 8**
West Deals: None Vul

- **North:** ♠ K 7 3, ♦ 5 3, ♥ 9 8 6, ♣ Q J 9 6 5
- **South:** ♠ A, ♥ K Q 2, ♦ A J 10 7, ♣ A K 10 7, ♥ K 3 2 8 2

East bids 3 ♠ shows a 5-card suit. West only has a spade doubleton so bids 3 NT.

Lead is ♠ Q.

Declarer should win and play ♠ A and ♦ J to guarantee two spade tricks (♠ K is an entry).