**PLAY & DEFENCE TIP No. 2**

**Defence: Opening Leads**

*Defence starts with the Opening Lead*

**Leading against a Notrump Contract**

- Lead partner’s suit (if they bid one)
- Lead top of a sequence of 3 honours or broken sequence
  
  - KQJ3
  - KQ109

- Lead a **low card from a suit with an honour**
  
  - AJ854
  - K932
  - Q64

- Lead a **high card from a suit with NO honour**
  
  - 974
  - 8742

- Lead an unbid major before an unbid minor – opponents usually bid a major if they have one

**Leading against a Suit Contract**

- Lead partner’s suit (if they have bid one)
- Lead top of a sequence of 2 or 3 honours
  
  - QJ932
  - J1065

- Lead a **singleton in a side suit**
  
  – you may be able to get a ruff with a small trump

- Lead a **low card from a suit with an honour, EXCEPT** a suit with the Ace at the top

- Lead a **high card from a suit with NO honour**
  
  - 97642
  - 104

**Summary**

- If there is a suit not bid the opponents, then without an obvious lead, lead that suit
- If you lead a **low card you will promise an honour** in that suit
- If you lead a high card (like a 9, 8 or 7) then you deny holding an honour in that suit
- If you lead an honour card, it should show at least the honour below that
- **Don't lead away from an Ace in a suit contract** – you may lose to a singleton K