

Opening Leads

In all questions below, you are West. Unless indicated, East-West pass throughout. What is your opening Lead ?

1.	North	<u>South</u>	
	1♥	1NT *	* 6-9 no 4+ card major
	3NT	All pass	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
▲ Q875	▲ 753	▲ A843	♠ 9763
y 753	🔻 Q875	👻 JT4	🔻 JT4
♦ K972	♦ K942	♦ AQ4	♦ QJ963
🐥 A6	🐥 A6	* 654	4 5
≜ 5	♦ 2		◆ Q

a) Low from longest suit. Spades is a better option as South has denied 4 spades.

b) Since North bid hearts, lead the unbid suit.

c) Low from longest suit (it is OK to lead away from an ace against NT).

d) Longest suit - top of a sequence lead.

2.		<u>West</u> <u>North</u> <u>East</u>		<u>South</u>			
			1♥	1♠	1NT * * 6-9 with a spade hold		
			3NT	All pass			
	(a)		(b)	(c)	(d)		
٠	K73	٠	K6	▲ 5	♠ 952		
¥	942	•	A853	v 854	💘 Q832		
•	876	•	876	♦ KT763	♦ A963		
*	A842	*	9876	🐥 A842	* 74		

•3

≜3

a) Partner's suit. Lead low if you hold three or more cards to an honour

¢Κ

b) Partner's suit. Lead low from three or more cards to an honour

c) Low from a potentially good suit of your own. Your spade holding is poor and the

opposition may not be prepared for a diamond lead. You have an "outside entry" card in A.

d) Partner's suit. Lead top of poor suit (\$9). Not \$2, since smallest card promises an

honour in the suit.

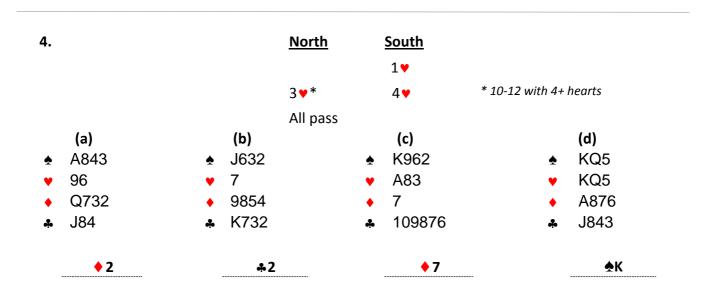
♠9



3.				<u>North</u>		<u>South</u>			
						1NT	(12-14)		
				2 ♣ *		2♠	* Stayman		
				2NT		3NT	All pass		
	(a)		(b)			(c)			(d)
٠	Q874	٠	Q874			A6	4		842
¥	874	•	874		¥	982	•	•	963
٠	K432	•	J82		•	KJT54	•	•	AK842
*	K6	*	A72		*	T63	•	*	Q6
	◆2		♥8			♦ J			◆2

- a) Low from longest suit. Do not lead a spade because South bid the suit
- b) Your longest suit (spades) has been bid by South. Because North bid Stayman and does not have four spades, they must have four hearts. Therefore lead a heart through North, hoping partner also has four hearts.
- c) Your longest suit and top of an interior sequence. By leading the jack, your partner knows you do **not** hold the ♦Q, but **could** have the ♦A or ♦K.
- d) Your longest suit. In no trumps, lead a small card because you are unlikely to win all five diamond tricks without losing the lead. If your partner has the doubleton Ox leading **A**A

diamond tricks without losing the lead. If your partner has the doubleton Qx, leading AK would be fatal. NB: against a suit contract, you would lead A ... always!



a) Lead a low card promising an honour. Do not lead a spade. It is wrong to underlead an ace

in a suit contract, or to lead an ace without holding the king.

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- b) It is fine to lead away from a king. We hope to find our partner with the queen or ace. This is better than leading away from a jack. Do not lead a singleton trump.
- c) Lead your singleton. When you win the ♥A, you hope to find partner with an entry so they can give you a diamond ruff.
- d) Top of a sequence. This is better than leading a diamond, as per hand (a) or leading away from a jack.

		<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>		
		1 🔶	1♠		
		2♠	3♠		
		All pass			
(a)		(b)	(c)		(d)
≜ J6	♦	QJ74	♠ Q6	٨	QJ4
🖌 AQJ8	•	9	\star J1042	•	Q1095
♦ Q86	•	874	872	•	83
• 9632	*	K8632	♣ AK74	*	9632
*9		* 2	*A		♥10

a) It is best to lead top of nothing. Leading a heart could give away a trick

b) Lead low from an honour to develop club trick(s). Do not lead a singleton when you have

good trumps. With four trumps you may score tricks without the need to ruff.

- c) Top of a sequence. You may even be able to give partner a ruff on the third round!
- d) Top of an interior sequence