

Beginners' Lesson 5 (Option A): Balanced Hands

Board 1
North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 10 4 2
♥ K 9 8 2
♦ 7 6 2
♣ Q 2

♠ 9 7
♥ J 6 5
♦ A K 8
♣ A 9 8 4 3

N
W E
S

♠ K 8 6
♥ A 10 7
♦ Q J 10 5
♣ J 10 5

♠ A J 5 3
♥ Q 4 3
♦ 9 4 3
♣ K 7 6

West North East South
Pass 1 NT Pass Pass
Lead: ♦ Q

North's 1 NT shows 12-14 HCP and a balanced hand. South has 10 HCP which is not enough for game so should pass (South needs 11-12 HCP to invite game).

The ♦ Q lead is the top of a sequence.

Declarer plays on the club suit by leading towards K♣ then a small club back to the Ace. Now lose a club to set up the last two clubs.

Board 2
East Deals
N-S Vul

♠ 8 2
♥ K Q 10 8 7 5
♦ K Q
♣ K 8 6

♠ K J 7 4
♥ 3
♦ 8 6 4 3
♣ J 5 3 2

N
W E
S

♠ A 9 6 5
♥ A 4 2
♦ J 7 5
♣ A 9 7

♠ Q 10 3
♥ J 9 6
♦ A 10 9 2
♣ Q 10 4

West North East South
4♥ All pass 1 NT Pass
Lead: ♠ 4

East's 1 NT promises a balanced hand with 12-14 HCP. West knows that East has at least two hearts and therefore they have a heart fit so should bid 4♥.

Lead of a small spade promises an honour.

Declarer draws trumps then plays the K♦ which promotes the Q and J. This means a club can be discarded on the J♦.

Board 3
South Deals
E-W Vul

♠ A J 4
♥ K 9 8 3
♦ K Q 8
♣ 10 9 6

♠ 8 6 5
♥ A 10 5
♦ A 6 4
♣ K 5 4 3

N
W E
S

♠ K 7
♥ Q J 7 4 2
♦ J 5 3 2
♣ A Q

♠ Q 10 9 3 2
♥ 6
♦ 10 9 7
♣ J 8 7 2

West North East South
1 NT Pass 3♥ Pass Pass
4♥ All pass
Lead: ♠ 3

West opens 1 NT. East bids 3♥ showing exactly a 5-card suit and opening hand. This is forcing and West, with 4 hearts, knows they have very good a fit, so bids 4♥.

Lead of a small spade promises an honour.

Declarer should draw trumps, then lead a small club to the AQ in East's hand. When North plays low, play the Q♣ hoping the K♣ is in North's hand.

Board 4
West Deals
Both Vul

♠ 6 3 2
♥ K Q J 10 2
♦ J 9
♣ J 9 7

♠ 10 7
♥ A 6 5
♦ K 8 7 6 2
♣ A K 5

N
W E
S

♠ K J 5
♥ 9 8 4 3
♦ Q 10 5
♣ Q 6 4

♠ A Q 9 8 4
♥ 7
♦ A 4 3
♣ 10 8 3 2

West North East South
Pass 1 NT Pass 2♠
All pass
Lead: ♥ K

South does not like being in notrumps due to their singleton, so bids 2♠ to be in a better contract. North must pass as South's bid is a weakness takeout.

After North wins the Ace♥, play a small spade towards the AQ♠. If East plays low, play the Q♠. When this holds, play the A♠ then target the diamonds. Start with A♦, then K♦ then a small diamond.

Board 5
North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ 6 5 3
♥ 10 6 4
♦ Q 9 7
♣ K 10 6 4

♠ K Q 10
♥ K Q 8 3
♦ A J 4
♣ Q J 2

N
W E
S

♠ A 9 4
♥ J 5 2
♦ 6 5 3
♣ A 9 7 5

♠ J 8 7 2
♥ A 9 7
♦ K 10 8 2
♣ 8 3

West North East South
Pass 1♥ Pass 1♠
2 NT Pass 3 NT
Lead: ♣ 5

North knows they do not have a spade fit so rebids 2 NT promising 18-19 HCP. South with 8 HCP, has enough to bid to game.

Lead of a small club promises an honour.

Declarer plays on spades to knock out the Ace and thereby promote three spade tricks.

Board 6
East Deals
E-W Vul

♠ A 9
♥ K Q 9 2
♦ A 7 6 2
♣ Q 10 4

♠ Q 4
♥ 7 6 5 3
♦ K J 8 5
♣ A J 8

N
W E
S

♠ 10 7 6 5 3 2
♥ J 8
♦ Q 4
♣ K 7 2

♠ K J 8
♥ A 10 4
♦ 10 9 3
♣ 9 6 5 3

West North East South
1♦ Pass 1♠ Pass
1 NT Pass 2♠ All pass

West rebids 1 NT showing 15-17 HCP. East, knows partner has at least 2 spades so bids 2♠ as they have a fit. This is a weak bid, so West must pass as

Lead ♦ 10.

On the lead, Declarer plays low from West (dummy), hoping the K♦ is in North's hand and then Q♦ becomes a winner. Now play trumps.

Board 7
South Deals
Both Vul

♠ 5 3 2
♥ A 8
♦ K 7 3 2
♣ 9 8 4 3

♠ A 10 7
♥ K 7 4
♦ Q 8 6
♣ A K 5 2

N
W E
S

♠ Q 9 8 6
♥ 9 5
♦ A 10 5 4
♣ J 10 7

♠ K J 4
♥ Q J 10 6 3 2
♦ J 9
♣ Q 6

West North East South
Pass 1♣ Pass 1♥
Pass 1 NT Pass 4♥
Lead: ♦ 2

North rebids 1 NT (15-17 HCP) and South bids 4♥ as they know they have a fit.

Lead is ♦ 2 from longest and strongest suit.

Declarer should draw trumps first, then play on clubs by starting with the honour in the short hand (Q♣). On the third round of clubs, discard a spade.

Board 8
West Deals
None Vul

♠ K 7 2
♥ A 5
♦ 9 7 6
♣ A Q 9 5 4

♠ 10 4 3
♥ 10 4 3 2
♦ Q J
♣ 8 7 6 3

N
W E
S

♠ Q 9 8 6
♥ K J 8
♦ A K 5 2
♣ K J

♠ A J 5
♥ Q 9 7 6
♦ 10 8 4 3
♣ 10 2

West North East South
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass
Lead: ♥ 2

East and West know they have enough for game.

Lead is a small heart from the longest and strongest suit.

Declarer wins ♥ K (keeping the ♥ A as an entry) then plays ♣ K and ♣ J.

Now declarer can cross to the ♥ A and play the rest of the club suit.