# Lesson 12: Opening Leads

## Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ 8 3
♥ K Q 2
♦ K J 7 4
♣ Q 9 7 5

♠ Q 9 7 6 2     ♠ A 5 4
♥ 10 9 6        ♥ J 8 4 3
♦ 8 6          ♦ 9 3 2
♣ A 10 4       ♣ J 6 2

♠ K J 10
♥ A 7 5
♦ A Q 10 5
♣ K 8 3

**Lead: small spade**

The small card lead promises an honour. East wins and returns the suit. South plays the ♠ J losing to the ♠ Q. West must continue with a third round, then keep spades and the ♣ A while declarer takes their diamond tricks.

When declarer tries to get a club trick, West must take ♣ A and the remaining two spade winners.

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
|      | Pass  | Pass | 1 ♦   |
| Pass | 3 ♦   | Pass | 3 NT  |
| All pass |   |      |       |

## Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

♠ Q 10 7 5 4
♥ 7 6
♦ Q 10
♣ A 9 6 2

♠ J 6         ♠ A 9
♥ J 10 8 2     ♥ A Q 9 5 3
♦ A 9 7 5      ♦ K 6 3 2
♣ K J 10      ♣ Q 5

♠ K 8 3 2
♥ K 4
♦ J 8 4
♣ 8 7 4 3

**Lead: small spade**

South attacks with a small spade promising an honour. East wins and crosses to ♦ A to take a losing trump finesse. The defence can now take a trick in each suit to defeat the contract. If South had led a club at trick one, the spade loser would have been discarded on the third club.

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
|      |       | 1 ♥  | Pass  |
| 3 ♥  | Pass  | 4 ♥  | All pass |

## Board 3

South Deals
E-W Vul

♠ Q 8 7 6
♥ K Q 6
♦ K
♣ A Q 8 7 3

♠ A 4        ♠ 5 3 2
♥ J 10 8 7 5   ♥ 4
♦ A J 6 3     ♦ 10 9 8 5 2
♣ 10 6       ♣ K 9 4 2

♠ K J 10 9
♥ A 9 3 2
♦ Q 7 4
♣ J 5

**Lead: ♥ 4 singleton**

East leads the heart, hoping to get a ruff. North wins and plays a spade to the king. West wins and returns a heart for East to ruff. East should play a diamond as clubs were bid by North.

This defence now defeats the contract. If East had not led a heart at trick one, the contract would have made.

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
|      |       |      | Pass  |
| Pass | 1 ♣   | Pass | 1 ♥   |
| Pass | 1 ♠   | Pass | 3 ♠   |
| Pass | 4 ♠   | All pass |    |

## Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

♠ Q J 6 2
♥ 5 4 3
♦ J 6 5
♣ 8 5 3

♠ 10 5       ♠ K 9 3
♥ Q J 10 9 8 2   ♥ 7 6
♦ A 2        ♦ K Q 8 4 3
♣ A K Q      ♣ 10 9 6

♠ A 8 7 4
♥ A K
♦ 10 9 7
♣ J 7 4 2

**Lead: ♠ Q**

North leads the top of a sequence enabling the defence to take two tricks in that suit. If any other lead is made, declarer can discard a losing spade on the third round of diamonds. A low spade lead would not beat the contract as declarer can play low from dummy.

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1 ♥  | Pass  | 1 NT | Pass  |
| 3 ♥  | Pass  | 4 ♥  | All pass |

## Board 5

North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ Q J 7 3
♥ K 2
♦ K Q J 8 4
♣ A 4

♠ A 10 9 6 2    ♠ K 8 4
♥ A 8 6       ♥ 10 9 7 3
♦ A 10 5      ♦ 9 3
♣ J 10        ♣ 9 8 7 6

♠ 5
♥ Q J 5 4
♦ 7 6 2
♣ K Q 5 3 2

**Lead : ♠ 4**

East leads partner's suit. With three cards and an honour, East leads a small card. If East leads ♠ K at trick one, declarer will make 9 tricks.

On a low spade lead, the defence takes four spades and two aces.

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
|      | 1 ♦   | Pass | 1 ♥   |
| 1 ♠  | 1 NT  | Pass | 2 NT  |
| Pass | 3 NT  | All pass |    |

## Board 6

East Deals
E-W Vul

♠ 10 8
♥ K 5 2
♦ J 7
♣ A 9 5 4 3 2

♠ Q J 7 5     ♠ A K 9 3 2
♥ Q J 7       ♥ A 6 3
♦ 6 5 4       ♦ A 9
♣ K Q 8      ♣ J 10 7

♠ 6 4
♥ 10 9 8 4
♦ K Q 10 8 3 2
♣ 6

**Lead: ♣ 6**

South must choose between ♦ K and a singleton club. It is preferable to lead a club hoping to get a ruff.

There is a greater chance of beating the contract by getting the ruff first and hopefully the ♦ K later.

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
|      |       | 1 ♠  | Pass  |
| 3 ♠  | Pass  | 4 ♠  | All pass |

## Board 7

South Deals
Both Vul

♠ A Q 10 5
♥ 9 6
♦ A J 2
♣ J 10 5 4

♠ 9 8 3       ♠ K J 7 2
♥ Q J 5       ♥ 8 7 4
♦ Q 8 4 3     ♦ K 10 6 5
♣ Q 9 7      ♣ 8 3

♠ 6 4
♥ A K 10 3 2
♦ 9 7
♣ A K 6 2

**Lead ♦ 5**

It is better to lead the unbid suit rather than declarer's suit.

When declarer attacks clubs or hearts, then West will return a diamond when in with the ♣ Q or ♥ Q.

When East gets in, they must not play a spade which was declarer's first bid suit.

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
|      |       |      | 1 ♥   |
| Pass | 1 ♠   | Pass | 2 ♣   |
| Pass | 2 NT  | Pass | 3 NT  |
| All pass |   |      |       |

## Board 8

West Deals
None Vul

♠ A J 10 3 2
♥ K J 5
♦ J 9 3
♣ 9 4

♠ K 9 8       ♠ 7 6 5
♥ A Q 8 7 4    ♥ 9
♦ 8          ♦ A Q 7 2
♣ K 8 6 5     ♣ A J 10 3 2

♠ Q 4
♥ 10 6 3 2
♦ K 10 6 5 4
♣ Q 7

**Lead: ♠ Q**

South leads partner's suit. With a doubleton, lead the higher card (with more than 2 of partners suit, lead low)

If you lead a diamond, declarer will discard a spade from dummy and will now lose only 2 spade tricks.

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1 ♥  | 1 ♠   | 2 ♣  | Pass  |
| 3 ♣  | All pass |   |       |