

Opening Leads

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

1.

	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	
	1♥	1NT *	<i>* 6-9 no 4+ card major</i>
	3NT	All pass	
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
♠ Q875	♠ 753	♠ A843	♠ 9763
♥ 753	♥ Q875	♥ JT4	♥ JT4
♦ K972	♦ K942	♦ AQ4	♦ QJ963
♣ A6	♣ A6	♣ 654	♣ 5
♠5	♦2	♠3	♦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 *	<i>* 6-9 with a spade hold</i>
		3NT	All pass		
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)		
♠ K73	♠ K6	♠ 5	♠ 952		
♥ 942	♥ A853	♥ 854	♥ Q832		
♦ 876	♦ 876	♦ KT763	♦ A963		
♣ A842	♣ 9876	♣ A842	♣ 74		
♠3	♠K	♦3	♠9		

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

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.

3.

	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	
		1NT	(12-14)
	2♣*	2♠	* Stayman
	2NT	3NT	All pass
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
♠ Q874	♠ Q874	♠ A6	♠ 842
♥ 874	♥ 874	♥ 982	♥ 963
♦ 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 Qx, leading ♦AK would be fatal. NB: against a suit contract, you would lead ♦A ... always!

4.

	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	
		1♥	
	2♥*	4♥	* 10-12 with 4+ hearts
	All pass		
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
♠ A843	♠ J632	♠ K962	♠ KQ5
♥ 96	♥ 7	♥ A83	♥ KQ5
♦ Q732	♦ 9854	♦ 7	♦ A876
♣ J84	♣ K732	♣ 109876	♣ J843
♦ 2	♣ 2	♦ 7	♠ K

- 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.

- 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.

5.

North **South**

1♦ 1♠

2♠ 3♠

All pass

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
♠ J6	♠ QJ74	♠ Q6	♠ QJ4
♥ AQJ8	♥ 9	♥ 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