

A Course On Opening Leads

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by Warren Watson

Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club

see <http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/ChalkTalks/ACourseOnOpeningLeads.pdf>

1.0 Opening Lead Catch Phrases

If bidding is a science then making an opening lead is an art. Someone new to bridge will have undoubtedly heard the following statements:

- A. Lead your longest and strongest suit.
- B. When in doubt lead trump.
- C. Lead through strength to weakness.
- D. If you bid it, you can lead it.
- E. Lead the highest in partner's bid suit.

The problem with these statements is that they have enough ring of truth that people keep reciting these statements to themselves as they make the opening lead. These statements should be dispelled right away once and for all. Throw them away.

Here are the correct versions of the statements:

- A. Lead your longest and strong suit except when you have no entries and when a passive (see section 8.0) lead is required. Leading from five card suits, however, is very attractive so one may lead from broken honours. One does not mind giving up a trick on the opening lead in order to set up a five-card suit. This is not so for four-card suits.
- B. Lead trump (see section 13.0) only when you have a reason to.
- C. Although it is very true that when dummy is on your right, you lead into dummy's empty suit (ideally, it is your empty suit as well) when you get on lead, however you hardly want to make a blind opening lead that may set up a side suit for declarer. Please do not ever lead a suit of declarer's on the opening lead unless the suit is solid. There is no good reason to lead dummy's side suit except for Lightner doubles (see section 14.0) and solid suits.
- D. Bid it and your partner will lead it. You may or may not lead it yourself. Leading your own suit when it is an honour sequence is fine but when the honours are broken the suit should only be led when an active (see section 8.0) lead is needed.
- E. Most of the time you lead normally when you lead partner's suit. See section 9.0.

2.0 Better Opening Lead Catch Phrases

Here are the real statements one needs to recite under one's breath on the opening lead:

- "I will use all the clues I have at my disposal."
 - The contract is ... and the bidding was ...
 - Is declarer or dummy the strong hand?
 - The opponents likely have 25 points, I have X points so partner has 40-25-X.
 - Does partner have enough to make an overcall of 1♥ or 1♠ and did not?
 - The opponents cannot have 25 high card points, but they are in game, lead a trump.
- "My hand calls for a lead of ..."
 - natural leads are ...
 - because of the presence of three touching honours or an Ace-king or a bid by partner, my hand has a natural lead.
- "Declarer will be trying to do such and such so I want to do the opposite."
 - Defenders and declarer (see section 5.0) should not cooperate. Sounds simple but it does not hurt to remind yourself of this.

3.0 Tasks of the opening leader

The opening leader must:

- a. recognize whether an active or passive (see section 8.0) lead is required
- b. pick the suit to lead
- c. choose the appropriate card from that suit
 - i. Lead tables will be helpful and a summary can be found in section 4.0.

Note: This may seem obvious once I state it, but the opening lead is different from the lead at trick two to trick twelve because:

- you can see dummy
- You know the suit(s), declarer attacked first
- Partner may have got in and had a chance to lead
 - Partner leads a high spot because:
 - he has top of nothing (or 2nd top).
 - he does not want the suit back.
 - he is looking for something in your hand.
 - he is trying to prevent partner from being end-played.
 - you can use the rule of eleven (see section 12.0) to determine whether a spot card can be fourth best or top of nothing.
 - Partner leads a low card because:
 - of interest.
 - he has an honour in the suit.
 - he wants the suit led back.
 - You know how partner won a trick or played to the past tricks.
 - if partner won the king, he is denying the queen so declarer must have it if you cannot see it in dummy or your hand.
 - You know how partner led when he got in.
 - Be on singleton alert in a trump contract when the partner of the opening leader first gets on lead.
 - partner will try to lead a natural lead if he has one.

Note:

- If you lead low from Kxxx and partner has xxxx, you are finessing yourself.
- If you lead low from Kxxx and partner has Qxxx, you are promoting your honour.
- Obviously, trying to locate points is very important to the opening or any lead.

4.0 Summary of lead tables

A. *Ace from Ace-king against a suit contract

- This is a natural or high priority lead
- the lead of a king shows king-queen
- You can play the ace from ace-king and switch when:
 - partner plays a low card telling you to switch
 - dummy has a singleton (you will switch and partner gives suit preference.)
 - dummy has Qxx, QJxx, etc (you will switch and partner will also give suit preference)
- When you play an unsupported ace, you cannot switch before the suit becomes set-up for the declarer.

B. Top of an honour sequence

- two touching honours in a trump contract but three is better
 - KQxxx
 - QJ64, J1052-try to avoid this lead unless partner bid the suit
- need three touching honours in a notrump contract
- *Three touching honours
 - This is a natural or high priority lead
 - KQJxx
 - lead fourth best if dummy or declarer has bid the suit
- Top of a broken honour sequence
 - KQ10xx or QJ9xx etc
- Top of an interior sequence
 - KJ10xx, A1098x, etc
 - are done against notrump on the opening lead and
 - are done against a trump contract on any lead except the opening one.

C. Top of nothing

I prefer 2nd top
do not sacrifice a ten

D. Lead of an ace against 3NT

you are only missing one honour in five-card or longer suit
It asks partner to unblock an honour and without an honour, give count

E. Lead of a Queen

done from KQ10xx or KQ109
asks partner to drop the jack and without the jack, give count.

5.0 Declarer's Tasks

What are declarer's tasks?

1. To ruff in the short-trump hand
2. To draw trump
3. To set up a side suit to get rid of losers or to get nine tricks in 3NT before the defense can get five tricks.

Leading a side suit of dummy will likely help declarer with task number three.

Theodore Lightner would have agreed with me. See Lightner doubles (See section 14.0).

6.0 Good Leads in order of Priority:

1. Natural lead (Ace from AK or King from KQJx or Queen from QJ10x etc)
2. Partner's suit (note this is second)
3. Your own suit if it looks like:

AKxxx, KQJxx, AKQxx, etc

Your partner's suit is ahead of your own to keep partner from complaining.

Unless partner doubles 3NT then, only then, you can lead your own suit or an active lead is needed)

4. top of broken sequence such as KQ10xx or QJ9xx etc
5. Unbid Suit
6. Little from a king or queen
7. two card honor sequence

7.0 Bad Leads

- (all almost equally very bad) on the opening lead only
- things change when you see dummy and the play of the first few tricks so the following leads may be good and necessary.

Bad Opening Leads:

- Your own suit if the honours are broken .
- interior sequence leads (usually against notrump on opening lead).
- Your own suit especially if RHO is strong and partner is 6-9.
 - Just because you bid it does not mean you have to lead from unsafe holdings (any tenace such as KJxx-broken holding)
- the second suit of either opponent EVEN Dummy. Your lead may tell declarer to look elsewhere or it may give him a head start in setting up a suit for discards.
- singleton trump (never).
- unsupported ace (sometimes Ax works).
- trump from Qxx (never).
- trump from 4 or more (need forcing defense-do not worry about this).
- Little from an ace against a suit contract.
- Leading small from tenaces (A10xx, KJxx, etc).
- leading from solitary honors is better than leading from a tenace such as KJxx

8.0 Active and Passive Leads

Passive and Active leads

A passive lead is a safe lead that has little risk in giving the declarer an undeserved trick. An active lead however develops a trick quickly for the defense if it works and if it fails gives a declarer an undeserved trick.

Active leads are made when declarer or dummy has a long side suit on which losers can be discarded.

Passive leads are done:

- When declarer has lots of strength.
- Against 1NT. The declarer will lose the lead several times and the defense can get valuable information from the suit or suits declarer attacks first.
- When partner has no points.

9.0 What to lead in partner's suit:

Top of touching honors

KQ, KQx, KQxx, QJ, QJx, QJxx, J10, J10x, J10xx, etc

follow with the second highest

if you play an honour and then the smallest spot, partner will think you have a doubleton

KQJ, KQJx, KQJxx play the king then the Jack

QJ10x, QJ10xx, play the queen then the ten

Low from an honour

Kxx, Kxxx, Qxx, Qxxx, etc

Exceptions:

Dummy has strength in partner's suit

You want to keep the lead to look at dummy and then lead through dummy in a side suit not bid by partner. Partner should give suit preference.

Kxx, Kxxx, Qxx, Qxxx, Jxx, Jxxx

When holding the ace in partner's suit

do not lead partner's suit.

Axx, Axxx, Axxxx

a mark of a good player is one who won't lead ace from Axx, Axxx, Axxxx, etc in partner's suit

doubleton ace

Ax

Top of a doubleton

Kx, Qx, Jx, 10x, xx, etc

Worthless Holdings:

You supported the suit:

top of nothing

xxx, xxxx, xxxxx

I like 2nd from top

xxx (MUD is scorned by me and most I have read), xxxx, xxxxx

You never supported partner:

you do not want to mislead partner into thinking you have a doubleton

little from three or more (4th best)

xxx, xxx, xxx

10.0 Tools

Tools that are available to help partner with an opening lead:

- His ears (listen to the bidding both what was bid and what was not bid)
- His eyes (look at his own hand)
- Overcalls
- Lead directive double
 - A double of an artificial bid such as Stayman, transfers or answers to Blackwood asks for the lead of that suit.
 - When the opponents cuebid your suit and either you or partner double, the double says please lead the suit. It is not because you can defeat the opponents in your trump suit. That is obvious. If support has not been shown, the double implies support and a wish for it to be led (ace or king). Be careful not to double the cuebid just to show support, if partner is strong enough to declarer and not defend he will double you in to show support. A double of a cuebid is lead directive (ace or king).
- Double of the final contract.
 - see Lightner Doubles
- Rule of Eleven

Note: Opening of a major, overcalls and preempts are lead-directive but balancing is not. Minor openings especially one club is lead-directive with nothing better to lead.

W	N	E	S	
1♦	P!	1♥	P	West does not want a spade lead, he is just balancing. Notice that if he had wanted a spade lead he would have overcalled 1♦ with 1♠.
1NT	P	2♥	P	
P	2♠	P	P	
3♥	All Pass			

11.0 3NT Leads

Leads of a suit with an ace:

You do not have a side entry:

AKxxxx	4th best leaves partner with a card back to your hand. Assume partner has a doubleton.
AKxxx	4th best
AKxxxxx	hmm, 4th best
AKQxxx	A
AKQ10xx	A
AKJxx	K asking partner to give attitude if he has the queen or length switch letting partner lead through declarer's queen

You have a side entry

AKxxxxx	King for attitude (partner do you have the queen?)
---------	--

Leading a five card suit has a priority. You may be willing to give up a trick on the way to set up the fourth and fifth cards, however it is not worthwhile losing a trick for a four-card suit. Therefore, leads from AQxx, KJxx, Axxx, Kxxx are not done especially at notrump but leads from AQxxx, KJxxx, Axxxx, Kxxxx are done at notrump.

What can you tell from the opening lead.

- A player who leads his own suit against 3NT has an outside entry.
- A player leading from a four-card suit does not have a void because he would have led from his five-card or longer suit.

Example:

West is on lead against 3NT and has: ♠32 ♥543 ♦A108732 ♣32

He will lead the 7♦ because the A♦ will be an entry. He must duck the second diamond and hope his partner has three of them as well as lots of outside entries. This is an exception to having an outside entry if you lead your own suit. It might be better to try the 3♠ to hit partner's suit unless you feel lucky and hope partner has three diamonds.

12.0 Rule of Eleven

One of the best rules out there.

If a player leads 4th best, then subtract the spot from eleven to get the number of cards higher than that spot in the remaining three hands.

1.0

	A95	
KJ4 <u>3</u> 2		Q108
	76	

There are eight ($11-3 = 8$) cards higher than the three in North, East and South. East knows South (declarer) has 2 cards higher. West will play the 2 as soon as possible after playing the three telling partner he has a five card suit.

2.0

	A43	
KJ9 <u>8</u> 7		Q52
	106	

Dummy ducks and East wins the queen with declarer dropping the six. West could have a five card suit. East won't know until he sees where the 7 is. There are three cards higher than the 8 in North, East and South. Therefore, declarer has only one card higher than the 8.

3.0

	A83	
KJ9 <u>4</u>		Q52
	1076	

Dummy ducks and East wins the queen with declarer dropping the six. West must have a four-card suit because East can see the three and the two.

4.0

	Q95	
AJ7 <u>6</u> 2		K108
	43	

North, East and South have 5 ($11-6$) cards higher than the 6. Declarer has nothing higher than the six. Therefore East will cover whatever dummy plays. If dummy ducks the queen and plays the 9, East will play the 10. Declarer's only chance is to play the queen and hope West has both the ace and king as in number 5.

5.0

	Q95	
AKJ <u>6</u> 2		1087
	43	

Declarer has to rise with the queen, because East will play the 10 if he has A107 of K107.

6.0 The rule of 11 is also useful to the declarer

	AJ4	
Q108 <u>6</u> 2		953
	K7	

North, East and South have five cards higher than the 6. Therefore, declarer knows East has one card higher than the 6. It could be the Queen so he plays the 4. East plays the nine, declarer wins the king and now knows West has the Queen. He can play the 7 to the Jack with 100% confidence.

7.0 The Rule of 11 tells partner whether the card is fourth best or top (or 2nd top) of nothing.

	AK5	
<u>9</u> 8743		Q102
	J6	

If the eight is fourth best then there are three cards higher than the eight in dummy, East and South. East can see four cards higher than the eight, therefore the eight is not fourth best.

8.0

3rd best lead, use Rule of 12

5th best lead, use Rule of 10.

13.0 Leading Trump

- Never when in doubt. When you lead trump, you know the reason.
- You tend not to lead trump when it means an immediate loss of a trick
 - Not from Qxx
 - Not a singleton trump
 - I think little from Kxx of trump is bad. Declarer can win the queen, cash his ace and make you ruff in so he gets to use his third trump in dummy to ruff and not to draw trump.
 - little from Axx of trump is excellent. When you get in again play the ace and out a small trump clearing three trump from dummy.
- **You want to cut down declarer's ruffing power even by a little**
 - Your side has most of the high card points and the opponents are clearly relying on ruffs.
 -
 - Declarer has two suits and you have values in his second suit that he will ruff out.
 - Dummy has a suit of his own and takes a preference between two of his partner's suits.
 - Opponents pull the contract from notrump into a suit, for example 1NT gets pulled to 2♦
- You want to protect holdings in every suit
 - You need a safe lead and opponents have trump sewn up

14.0 Lightner Doubles

A double of 3NT or any slam asks for an unusual lead. Dummy's first bid suit is high on the list of unusual leads.

A double says to partner:

- do not lead my suit,
- lead your own suit.
- And if the defenders never bid:
 - lead dummy's first side suit or
 - lead your longest suit. The doubler may be looking for an opening-lead ruff.
 - lead the suit over which partner made a lead-directive double. A double of the final contract never erases a lead-directive double made earlier in the auction.

What if a suit has never been bid?

1NT P 3NT All Pass

asks for a major suit lead since Stayman was not even used.

1NT P 3NT Dbl

All Pass

asks for the lead of your shortest suit.

♠Kxxx ♥xxxx ♦xx ♣xxx

Partner likely has:

♠xx ♥xxx ♦AKQxxx ♣xx

15.0 Examples

Board 1

None Vulnerable North Dealer

♠A84 ♥AQ ♦A10 ♣KQ942

♠KJ9 ♥1043 ♦K95 ♣J1087

♠10763 ♥987 ♦J432 ♣53

♠Q52 ♥KJ652 ♦Q876 ♣A

3♣N-2 +100-i did not double because i did not want you to lead your own suit (a heart which i raised)
East should lead 6♦. Not a terribly good lead but a heart is bad so is a spade and so is A♣

Monday Afternoon Pairs

Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club

Here is a hand played on a Monday afternoon at the Kootenay Jewel bridge club.

Board 26

East Dealer

Both Vulnerable

♠A6 ♥J3 ♦832 ♣QJ9654

♠J93 ♥105 ♦AKQJ7 ♣1082

♠KQ1074 ♥A98762 ♦10 ♣7

♠852 ♥KQ4 ♦9654 ♣AK3

This is how the bidding should go:

E	S	W	N
P!	1♣	1♦	2♣
2♠	P	3♠	P
4♠	All Pass		

Against me, East opened. East needs an eleven-count even with this beautiful two-suiter. The bidding will unlikely pass out with the distribution and points that are likely occurring around the table and then East can make strong passed-hand bids.

East is playing four of a major and South is on lead. 4♠ should always make and 4♥ should be set.

The reason East does not bid hearts first is he is not strong enough for a reverse. It is always better to lie about length not strength. East bids the hand as if he is five-five in the majors. A six card heart suit to the Ace-Nine is a weakish suit.

If East had ♠109852 ♥AKQ982 ♦10 ♣7, he would ignore spades and overcall 2♥ and never mention spades.

Trying to do too much with a hand just gives partner the wrong message about your strength. East wants to get to game, but if he bids too strongly his partner will get him to an unmakeable slam.

Should South make an opening lead of a diamond? No, absolutely not. Weaker players will recite to themselves "lead through strength to weakness" as they put the 9♦ on the table for the opening lead. Let's get rid of that statement once and for all.

16.0 Quiz

Lead Quiz

June and July, 2013

1. ***Both Vulnerable

W	N	E	S
			1NT
P	2NT	All Pass	

What do you lead? ♠Q63 ♥104 ♦J53 ♣Q10765

2. ***North South Vulnerable

W	N	E	S
	P	P	2NT
P	3NT	All Pass	

What do you lead? ♠AJ73 ♥K52 ♦9832 ♣84

3. East West Vulnerable

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1♦	1♠	Dbl
2♠	3♣	3♠	4♦
P	P	Dbl	P
4♠	All Pass		

What do you lead? ♠--- ♥K9432 ♦J543 ♣A754

Not a diamond

4. Both Vulnerable

W	N	E	S
		P	P
1♠	Dbl	Rdbl	2♥
P	P	2♠	3♦
P	3NT	All Pass	

Partner leads the 4♠. You win the A♠. What do you return?

♠A1083 ♥742 ♦104 ♣AJ42

Dummy was: ♠65 ♥AQ865 ♦K9832 ♣3

5. ***None Vulnerable

W	N	E	S
	1♣	Dbl	1♥
3♠	P	3NT	P
P	Dbl	All Pass	

What do you lead? ♠94 ♥KJ8764 ♦Q974 ♣5

6. ***None Vulnerable

W	N	E	S
P	1D	P	1NT
P	3NT	P	P
P			

What does West Lead? S:QJ542 H:J973 D:52 C:96

7. ***None Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	
			P	
P	1♥	x	4♥	What does East lead? ♠J5 ♥K43 ♦AKQ9 ♣AKJ8
P	P	x	All Pass	

8. ***East West Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	East (dummy): ♠97432 ♥J ♦83 ♣A9743
			P	
1♦	P	1♠	P	South: ♠KQJ ♥9874 ♦95 ♣K862
2NT	P	P	P	

Partner led the 2♥ won by dummy's Jack♥. South wins trick two with the Jack♠, what does he return?

9. ***Both Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	
			P	
P	P	1NT	P	What does South lead? ♠A106 ♥AJ853 ♦J10 ♣J105
2♣	P	2♥	P	
4♥	P	P	Dbl	All Pass

10. East West Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	
			P	
1♦	P	1♥	P	S: ♠QJ76 ♥J10876 ♦9832 ♣---
2♦	2♠	3♣	P	What does South lead?
4♥	P	P	P	What does South lead with no spade bid?

11. North South Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	
1♣	1♥	P	P	What does West lead? ♠A65 ♥832 ♦A6 ♣AJ1098
x	P	P	1♠	What does West lead at trick 3 after winning A♣?
P	P	x	All Pass	Dummy (North): ♠32 ♥AQJ65 ♦Q1074 ♣KQ

12. None Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	
1♣	P	1♦	1♠	What does East lead? ♠A6543 ♥AK5 ♦QJ92 ♣J
Dbl	P	2♥	P	give partner a ruff
4♥	All Pass			

13. East West Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	
		P	1NT	P
				What does South lead? ♠9432 ♥105 ♦Q86 ♣10732
2♣	P	2♥	P	not a spade, not a heart, not a club
3NT	P	4♠	All Pass	

14. ***East West Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	
			P	P
2♠	P	P	3♣	What does East lead? ♠Q5 ♥K1054 ♦AQ104 ♣542
P	3NT	All Pass		

15. ***East West Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	
			1♦	What does East Lead? ♠J765 ♥Q752 ♦92 ♣KQ7
P	1♥	P	1♠	
P	3NT	All Pass		

16. North South Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	
1♣	1♠	3♣	4♠	What does East Lead? ♠95 ♥108 ♦9732 ♣Q7543
All Pass				

17. ***Reason for light 3rd Seat Opening

♠J1064 ♥A6 ♦AK75 ♣A95

♠AQ832 ♥J4 ♦Q10 ♣8743 ♠K975 ♥Q10932 ♦964 ♣2

♠--- ♥K875 ♦J832 ♣KQJ106

East West Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	Does West open light with:
		P	P	♠AQ832 ♥J4 ♦Q10 ♣8743
P	1NT	P	2♣	
P	2♠	P	3NT	
All Pass				

18. North South Vulnerable

W	N	E	S
P	1NT	P	3NT
P	P	P	

What does East lead from: ♠Q832 ♥J64 ♦53 ♣KJ76
Partner led 5♦???

19. East West Vulnerable

W	N	E	S
	2♠	4♥	4♠
5♥	5♠	Dbl	All Pass

Do you go up with Ace?

Dummy: ♠AK1096 ♥J83 ♦J96 ♣98
Three rounds of hearts, two rounds of spades then 9♣:
West: ♠85 ♥54 ♦A853 ♣A10543
When you take A♣, what do you lead?

20. Both Vulnerable

W	N	E	S
1NT	P	2♣	2♦
2♥	P	4♥	4♠
Dbl	All Pass		

What does West lead? ♠A1086 ♥KQ65 ♦Q87 ♣KJ

21. ***East West Vulnerable

W	N	E	S
		1♦	1♠
Dbl	P	2♦	P
2♠	P	2NT	P
3NT	All Pass		

What does South Lead? ♠Q10862 ♥KQ73 ♦9 ♣KQJ

22. North South Vulnerable

W	N	E	S
1♣	P	1♦	4♠
Dbl	All Pass		

What does West lead? ♠AK5 ♥K963 ♦84 ♣QJ43

23. None Vulnerable

W	N	E	S
			P
P	1♦	1♥	2♣
2♥	2NT	P	3♣
3♥	3NT	4♥	Dbl
All Pass			

What does South Lead? ♠A9 ♥84 ♦Q53 ♣KJ10965

24. None Vulnerable

W	N	E	S
	3♣	P	3NT
All Pass			

What does West Lead? ♠K842 ♥42 ♦AJ74 ♣976
4♦ was a disaster

25. Both Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	
		P	1♣	What does West lead? ♠A8432 ♥K108 ♦A986 ♣8
1♠	Dbl	2♠	P	J32
P	3♣	P	3NT	A986 KQ754
All Pass				10

26. None Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	
	1NT	P	3NT	What does East Lead? ♠Q43 ♥983 ♦Q972 ♣J42
All Pass				

27. North South Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	
		P	1NT	What does West lead? ♠54 ♥KQ1094 ♦54 ♣8764
P	3NT	All Pass		

28. Both Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	
P	P	P	1♦	What does West lead? ♠K92 ♥KJ86 ♦83 ♣K743
Dbl	1♠	2♥	3♦	
P	3NT	Dbl	4♦	
P	P	Dbl	All Pass	

29. East West Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	What does South Lead? ♠KJ ♥KJ32 ♦J8652 ♣63
	P	1♠	P	2♥ works but 5♦ does not
3♦	P	4♠	All Pass	Bergen

30. Both Vulnerable

S	W	N	E	
P	P	P	1♦	What does South Lead? ♠J ♥853 ♦Q1065 ♣Q10864
P	1♥	P	2NT	
P	3NT	All Pass		

31. Both Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	
1♠	3♦	P	3NT	What does West Lead? ♠AQ1085 ♥AJ108 ♦84 ♣Q2
P	P	Dbl	All Pass	

32. ***North South Vulnerable

N	E	S	W		
2NT	P	3♣	Dbl	What does East Lead?	♠J10763 ♥Q98 ♦Q984 ♣5
3♦	P	3NT	All Pass	Does West double with:	♠82 ♥A632 ♦2 ♣AJ9842

33. East West Vulnerable

S	W	N	E		
2♦	2♠	3♦	3♠	What does West lead?	♠AKQJ54 ♥A96 ♦54 ♣42
P	4♠	5♣	Dbl		
5♦	All Pass				

34. North South Vulnerable

E	S	W	N		
1♠	P	1NT	P	What does South Lead?	♠7 ♥KJ952 ♦Q10 ♣Q9632
2♠	P	4♠	All Pass		

35. ***North South Vulnerable

E	S	W	N		
P	1NT	2♦	3NT	What does East lead?	♠J83 ♥2 ♦J98754 ♣1032
P	P	4♠	5♣	What does W lead vs 3NT?	♠AK10542 ♥QJ743 ♦62 ♣--
All Pass				2♦ shows the majors	

36. Both Vulnerable

E	S	W	N		
P	1♦	P	2♣	What does West lead?	♠Q872 ♥J952 ♦94 ♣QJ2
2♥	3♥	Dbl	4♣		
P	4♠	All Pass			

37. ***Both Vulnerable

W	N	E	S		
P	P	1♥	1NT	What should West lead?	♠632 ♥653 ♦J10864 ♣72
P	2♣	P	3NT		
All Pass					

38. North South Vulnerable

N	E	S	W		
P	1♥	1♠	2♥	What should South lead?	♠K109754 ♥Q8 ♦K ♣8632
Dbl	4♥	All Pass			

39. None Vulnerable

S	W	N	E	
P	P	1♣	P	What should West lead? ♠107532 ♥J8 ♦A5432 ♣A
1NT	All Pass			

40. None Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	
1♥	P	2♠	P	What does South lead? ♠9 ♥863 ♦QJ10 ♣J107652
3♠	P	4NT	P	
5♥	P	7♠	All Pass	Now partner can discard diamonds

41. None Vulnerable

S	W	N	E	
2♦	Dbl	3♦	4♥	What does South lead? ♠8752 ♥1092 ♦KQJ43 ♣7
All Pass				

42. ***North South Vulnerable

E	S	W	N	
P	1♣	P	1♠	What does West lead? ♠A942 ♥9652 ♦K97 ♣J7
2♦	2♥	P	3♣	
P	3NT	All Pass		

43. None Vulnerable

N	E	S	W	
P	P	1♠	P	What does West lead? ♠8 ♥A1086 ♦K532 ♣7653
1NT	P	2♠	P	
3♠	P	4♠	All Pass	Not a club

44. North Dealer None Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	
	P	1♣	1♦	What does West Lead? ♠KQxx ♥9xx ♦x ♣108xxx
1♠	2♦	Dbl*	P	Not a club
2♠	3♦	all Pass		*support double

45. West Dealer None Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	
1♦	P	1♠	P	What does South lead? ♠Qxx ♥QJxxx ♦A7 ♣876
2♦	P	3♠	All pass	Not 4th best heart, not spade, not diamond

46. East West Vulnerable

S	W	N	E	
P	P	P	1♦	What does South lead? ♠42 ♥KJ872 ♦J865 ♣A9
1♥	1♠	P	2♣	5♦ not a good lead but works
P	P	2♥	2NT	lead a spade. P leads a heart, you switch to a diamond
All Pass				

47. East West Vulnerable

N	E	S	W	
P	1♠	P	2♠	What does South lead? ♠Q5 ♥AQ974 ♦98 ♣K974
P	P	3♥	3♠	Not 9♦
All Pass				

48. North South Vulnerable

E	S	W	N	
P	1♥	P	1♠	What should West lead? ♠92 ♥AQ108 ♦K1076 ♣1074
P	2♦	P	3♣	the 10 is a useful card to sacrifice
P	3NT	All Pass		

49. East West Vulnerable

N	E	S	W	What does West lead? ♠75 ♥86 ♦QJ642 ♣QJ103
P	1♣	4♠	All Pass	Club is not lead directive

50. None Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	
P	1♥	1♠	2♥	What does East lead? ♠A9752 ♥J ♦K542 ♣AJ10
2♠	P	P	3♥	West: ♠Q10 ♥75 ♦A873 ♣Q6432
All Pass				Dummy: ♠J6 ♥A9864 ♦QJ6 ♣987

51. East West Vulnerable

N	E	S	W	
P	P	2♠	2NT	What does North lead? ♠9 ♥8652 ♦AKQ964 ♣43
P	3NT	All Pass		
spade stoppers but no diamond stopper				

52. Both Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	
1♥	P	1♠	P	What does South lead? ♠AQ8743 ♥K852 ♦J ♣64
2♦	P	2NT	P	heart is good but club works (partner has clubs and QJ♥)
3♦	P	3NT	All Pass	7♠ is bad bad bad

53. Both Vulnerable

E	S	W	N	
2♥	3♦	4♥?	5♦	What does West lead? ♠QJ105 ♥K1092 ♦76 ♣K105
All Pass				

54. North South Vulnerable

E	S	W	N	
P	P	1♣	1♠	What does South lead? ♠Q6 ♥KJ9874 ♦96 ♣983
1NT	All Pass			Clubs are not lead directive

55. None vulnerable

S	W	N	E	East: ♠A632 ♥9754 ♦875 ♣63
1♣	P	1♥	P	
2♥	All Pass			

56. ***None Vulnerable

S	W	N	S	
1♠	2♥	P	3♥	What does West lead? ♠xxx ♥AKJxxx ♦x ♣Qxx
3♠	P	4♠	All Pass	do you lead stiff first or cash a heart or two

57. North South Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	
P	2♦	P	2♠	What does West lead? ♠K95 ♥KJ1064 ♦983 ♣K3
P	4♠	All Pass		Not a trump- K♣ or J♥ work really well

58. Both Vulnerable

E	S	W	N	
P	P	P	1NT	What does East Lead?: ♠J53 ♥Q5 ♦652 ♣K6432
P	2♦	P	2♥	Not 3♣
P	3NT	All Pass		

59. None Vulnerable

S	W	N	E	
2NT	P	3♦	P	What does West lead?: ♠Q975 ♥K5 ♦K10765 ♣94
3♥	P	3NT	All Pass	Not 5♠

60. None Vulnerable

S	W	N	E	
1♦	P	2♣	2♠	What does West lead?: ♠J10743 ♥10865 ♦4 ♣K53
3♦	4♠	5♦	All Pass	Not 4♦

61. East West Vulnerable

S	W	N	E	
P	P	P	1NT	What does South Lead?: ♠98532 ♥109862 ♦AK ♣2
P	2NT	P	3NT	Just a guess Spade works better
All Pass				

62. None Vulnerable do i jump to 4S

N	E	S	W	
P	1♠	x	2NT	West has: ♠AQ852 ♥42 ♦9852 ♣K10
4♣	4♠	5♣	?	Dbl

63. North South Vulnerable 4S is better-No-the lead was crazy but worked

W	N	E	S	
P	P	2♣	P	West has: ♠75 ♥83 ♦KQ1072 ♣K1075
2♦	P	2♠	P	South has: ♠Q632 ♥KJ ♦J843 ♣J86
3♦	P	3NT	P	Everybody is in 4♠+1-nobody leads a heart
?				Pass-3NT is a good bid

64. Both Vulnerable

E	S	W	N	
1♦	P	1NT	2♠	W: ♠J62 ♥Q105 ♦4 ♣KQ5432
P	P	?		Pass

65. None Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	♠843 ♥Q84 ♦K8543 ♣J2
1♣	P	1♠	P	
3♠	P	3♠	P	
5♣	P	5♠	All Pass	though a heart and a diamond switch works

66. None Vulnerable

S	W	N	E	What does South lead from: ♠AQ654 ♥K ♦KQ43 ♣J76
1♠	2♣	2♠	3♥	
P	4♥	P	P	not k♦, A♠
4♠	P	P	5♥	
P	P	x	All Pass	

Lead Quiz II

July and August, 2013

67. East-West Vulnerable

W	N	E	S
	P	P	P
2C	P	2D	P
2S	P	2NT	P
3H	P	4S	P
6S	All Pass		

What does North Lead From?

- a. S:3 H:42 D:98765 C:AJ532
- b. S:3 H:42 D:98765 C:A6532
- c. S:3 H:42 D:98765 C:AQ532

68. None Vulnerable S2NT---3NT ♠9875 ♥QJ10 ♦J632 ♣63

What is the lead?

69. East West Vulnerable: Partner Leads K♠ against 6♥ to declarer's ace

Declarer cashes two clubs pitching the 3 of spades and then puts the 5♦ on the table

Dummy is: ♠9765 ♥KQ98 ♦5 ♣AK102

You have: ♠J842 ♥62 ♦A1042 ♣654

What do you play?

The opponents being in game change anything?

70. None Vulnerable

S	W	N	E
P	1NT	All Pass	

West in second seat opens 1NT, 10-12 and it passes out.

What does North lead from: ♠A5 ♥10632 ♦854 ♣KQ104

71. East West Vulnerable

S	W	N	E	What does East Lead with:	♠Q5	♥KQ108	♦52	♣108763
P	P	1♦	P					
1♠	P	3♦	P					
3♥	P	3NT	All Pass					

72. North South Vulnerable

What does South Lead? ♠J10943 ♥93 ♦KQ93 ♣AQ

W	N	E	S
P	2♠	3♥	3♠
4♥	4♠	DbI	P
5♥	DbI	P	P
P			

73. What does West bid in fourth seat after three passes?

- a. ♠Q103 ♥98 ♦AJ9754 ♣QJ
- b. ♠Q103 ♥Q8 ♦AJ9754 ♣QJ

What is the lead against 2♠?

♠Q103 ♥98 ♦AJ9754 ♣QJ What does West bid after three passes?

74. None Vulnerable

N	E	S	W	What does West Lead?	♠K92	♥KQ98	♦109	♣K985
P	P	1♠	P					
2♠	DbI	P	3♥					
P	P	3♠	All Pass					

75. North South Vulnerable

W	N	E	S	What does South Lead?	♠K743	♥2	♦974	♣K9872
1♠	P	2♥	P		♠KJ93	♥2	♦974	♣K9872
4♥	All Pass							

76. North South Vulnerable

- a.

W	N	E	S
1NT	P	2♦	P
2♥	P	2♠	All Pass

 East is
- b.

W	N	E	S
1NT	P	2♥	P
2♠	P	3♥	P
4♥	All Pass		

 East is

77. None Vulnerable

N	E	S	W	What does West lead?	♠J872	♥KJ4	♦Q10	♣10865
1♠	P	1NT	P					
2♦	P	3♦	P					
3NT	All Pass							

78. East West Vulnerable

E	S	W	N	What does East lead?	♠J87	♥J7653	♦J108	♣85
P	P	P	2♣					
P	2♦	P	2NT					
P	3♣	P	3NT					
All Pass								

79. East West Vulnerable

E	S	W	N	What does North Lead?	♠542	♥J102	♦K96	♣K652
P	P	2♣	P					
2♦	P	2NT	P					
3♣	P	3NT	All Pass					

80. North South Vul

W	N	E	S	What does East lead with	♠AKJ102	♥9	♦KQ1065	♣92
P	1♥	1♠	Dbf					
P	1NT	2♦	3NT					
All Pass								

Right or Wrong East leads K♦

Declarer wins the ace and plays a small heart from dummy. What does West play?

Does he duck?

If he takes the ace of hearts does he return a spade or diamond?

Dummy: ♠53 ♥6 ♦AJ87 ♣KQJ1065

West has ♠987 ♥A108532 ♦92 ♣83

81. North South Vulnerable

E	S	W	N	What does West Lead?:	♠A42	♥J9765	♦864	♣109
P	1NT	P	4NT					
All Pass								

82. None Vulnerable

S	W	N	E	What does North Lead?	♠Q6432	♥J632	♦742	♣3
P	2♣	P	2♦					
P	3♦	P	3♠					
P	3NT	All Pass						

83. North South Vulnerable

N	E	S	W	What does North Lead? ♠104 ♥973 ♦Q8643 ♣A105
P	1♠	P	2♥	
P	4♥	All Pass		

84. Both Vulnerable

S	W	N	E	What does East lead: ♠Qx ♥Jxxx ♦109xxx ♣Ax
		1♣	P	
1♥	1♠	2NT	P	
3NT	All Pass			