

Twoonie Talk #6

Opening Leads

Warren Watson

Last Revised March 7, 2015

KJBC & KDBC

These questions are taken from Robert Ewen's *Opening Leads*.

1.	1N-3N				♠1096	♥J8632	♦1098	♣74
2.	P	1♦	P	1♠	♠74	♥9652	♦5432	♣K104
	P	3♦	P	3♠				
	P	4♠	all pass					
3.	1N---3N				♠A2	♥A63	♦A85	♣65432
4.	S	W	N	E	♠82	♥A106432	♦97	♣KQJ
	1N	2♥	3♥	P				
	3♠	P	4♠	All Pass				
5.	S	W	N	E	♠AK106	♥2	♦QJ108	♣KQ85
	1♥	Dbl	All Pass					
6.	S	W	N	E	♠109843	♥875	♦A5	♣Q62
	1♥	P	2♦	P				
	3♦	P	3♥	P				
	4NT	P	5♦	P				
	6♥	All Pass						
7.	S	W	N	E	♠10987	♥K85	♦9762	♣93
	1NT	P	3NT	Dbl	All Pass			
8.	S	W	N	E	♠987	♥6	♦876432	♣KQJ
	1♥	P	3♥	P				
	4NT	P	5♥	P				
	6♥	P	P	Dbl	All Pass			

9.	S	W	N	E	♠753	♥972	♦AJ102	♣KQJ
	1♠	P	1NT	P				
	2♦	P	2♠	All Pass				
10.	S	W	N	E	♠863	♥AKQ2	♦Q10863	♣7
	1♥	P	2♣	P				
	3♣	P	3♥	P				
	4♥	All Pass						
11.	S	W	N	E	♠K4	♥QJ1098	♦KJ4	♣732
	1♠	P	2♣	P				
	3♣	P	3♥	P				
	3♠	P	4♠	All Pass				
12.	E	S	W	N	♠52	♥Q62	♦8632	♣9864
	1♥	1♠	P	2NT				
	P	4♠	All Pass					
13.	S	W	N	E	♠K83	♥KQJ32	♦1085	♣J7
	1♥	P	1♠	P				
	3NT	All Pass						
14.	S	W	N	E	♠A53	♥10976	♦4	♣QJ1085
	1♦	P	1♠	2♥				
	2♠	?						
15.	W	N	E	S	♠J875	♥843	♦J43	♣A96
	P	1♦	P	1♠				
	P	3♦	P	3NT	All Pass			
16.	N	E	S	W	♠AK52	♥763	♦A52	♣K53
	1♦	P	2♣	P				
	2♦	P	3NT	All Pass				
17.	N	E	S	W	♠K6	♥963	♦J642	♣8762
	1♠	P	3♦	P				
	4♠	P	4NT	P				
	5♥	P	5NT	P				
	6♦	P	7NT	All Pass				

Twoonie Talk #6-Answers

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1. 1N-3N

♠1096 ♥J8632 ♦1098 ♣74

In auctions that go 1NT-3NT, one tends to lead a major. Also, one does not lead one's own suit with no outside entries especially if the suit is weak.

2.

♠74 ♥9652 ♦5432 ♣K104

Declarer has a dummy with a good diamond suit to pitch losers. One has to be active and grab what tricks one can before diamonds get set up. From the hand, one can tell that partner may have spade honours in the pocket and diamond honours may be falling wasted.

3. 1N---3N

♠A2 ♥A63 ♦A85 ♣65432

With three sure side entries, clubs will likely set up and you will cash 2 long clubs to set the contract.

4.

♠82 ♥A106432 ♦97 ♣KQJ

3♥ is GF Stayman. p93: Quick winners that will not fall victim to declarer's ruffs must be developed." If the ace♥ is not kept as an entry to cash club winners, declarer will likely pitch club losers on his heart honours that are freed up with a heart lead.

5.

♠AK106 ♥2 ♦QJ108 ♣KQ85

When a takeout double has been passed for penalty (penalty conversion) by partner, it is generally a good idea to lead trump.

6.

♠109843 ♥875 ♦A5 ♣Q62

Cashing the ♦ Ace will give declarer his contract. Your only hope to set the contract is if partner has the ♣ King and you can cash the ♣ Queen when you get in with the Ace♦. Once the ♦ Ace is dislodged, declarer will pitch his losers. They used an ace-asking sequence, so it is pretty much for certain your side does not have two cashing aces.

7.

♠10987 ♥K85 ♦9762 ♣93

A doubled 3NT contract where the dummy or defenders have not bid a suit asks one to lead their shortest suit because partner has a running long suit.

8.

♠987 ♥6 ♦876432 ♣KQJ

This is a Lightner double which says the slam contract can be beaten with an unusual lead. It seems that partner will likely get a ♦ ruff on the opening lead. Dummy's first bid side suit is also an unusual lead but no such suit exists here.

9.

♠753 ♥972 ♦AJ102 ♣KQJ

Lead trump, you have strength in declarer's second suit that you do not want ruffed out. Dummy has chosen spades over diamonds so his diamonds are likely his shortest suit.

10.

♠863 ♥AKQ2 ♦Q10863 ♣7

A singleton lead here is so terrible for two big reasons. The opponents have both bid clubs and partner could have Qxx which you will pin for the declarer. Declarer will either be unsuccessful playing for the drop or has to guess which way to finesse for it.

The biggest reason, is that with four or more trump, one wants declarer to ruff to shorten his own trump holding. If you can shorten declarer's long trump hand enough, your 2♥ will be the setting trick.

11.

♠K4 ♥QJ1098 ♦KJ4 ♣732

You always lead the suit that kept the opponents out of 3NT. p16. It is the unbid suit as well.

12.

♠52 ♥Q62 ♦8632 ♣9864

Normally, one leads small from three or four to an honour even if partner bids the suit, but here, you are never getting the lead except on the opening lead. Lead the Queen and if partner has the ace and king, you will hold the trick, survey the dummy and pick the side suit partner is dying to have led.

13.

♠K83 ♥KQJ32 ♦1085 ♣J7

One leads 4th best in a suit in which an opponent has declared length. Leading the King cannot be right and declarer may guess poorly which cards to play in the suit.

14.

S	W	N	E
1♦	P	1♠	2♥
2♠	3♦	3♣	All Pass

♠A53 ♥10976 ♦4 ♣QJ1085

Lead your singleton with trump control and a possible heart entry in partner's hand to give a diamond ruff.

15.

W	N	E	S
P	1♦	P	1♠
P	3♦	P	3NT All Pass

♠J875 ♥843 ♦J43 ♣A96

East did not make a 1♥ overcall and he may have club values but could have been reluctant to make a two-level overcall. The opponents have a long suit that may be close to running so you need to grab your tricks. Lead the ♣Ace. P57

16. N E S W ♠AK52 ♥763 ♦A52 ♣K53
 1♦ P 2♣ P
 2♦ P 3NT All Pass

♠974
 ♥AQJ
 ♦KQJ86
 ♣82
 ♠AK52 ♠863
 ♥763 ♥8542
 ♦A52 ♦943
 ♣K53 ♣964
 ♠QJ10
 ♥K109
 ♦107
 ♣AQJ107

You want to convince declarer you might have a five card spade suit. He cannot safely drive out the ♦Ace if you have 4 spades to cash so he will gamble on the losing club finesse. P 182

17. N E S W ♠K6 ♥963 ♦J642 ♣8762
 1♠ P 3♦ P
 4♠ P 4NT P
 5♥ P 5NT P
 6♦ P 7NT All Pass p 135

♠AQJ10542
 ♥K7
 ♦8
 ♣A109
 ♠K6 ♠983
 ♥963 ♥J108542
 ♦J642 ♦7
 ♣8763 ♣542
 ♠7
 ♥AQ
 ♦AKQ10953
 ♣KQJ

You are quite sure your LHO, the dummy, has the AQ of spades. Make declarer make a decision about finessing before he is ready to. He may go up with the ♠Ace and rely on the diamond split behaving. On any other lead, declarer will have the timing to test diamonds to see if he needs the spade finesse which is working.