



# Election of 1932

Did  
Roosevelt  
win it, or did  
Hoover Lose  
it?

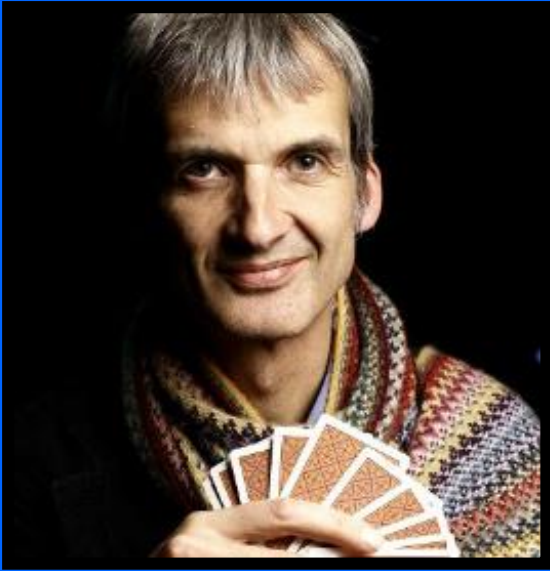
# Opening Leads

# Topics covered

**What are the Standard Leads?**

**When do I deviate from standard leads?**

- \* When do I lead trump?**
- \* Which card do I lead of the suit my partner bid?**
- \* An Active or Passive lead?**
- \* If ops are in slam – do I lead my ace?**



Andrew Robson



Bernard McGee

# Our experts

DW's  
M ♥



EBU



**Bridge is  
a game  
for  
partners.**

- **Trust them**
- **Talk to them**

**The opening lead  
serves two  
functions:**

Active

**1st**

take them,

function

set them up to be

**NT**

is about

taken...

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tricks:

**OR** at least avoid giving

declarer a cheap trick.

Passive

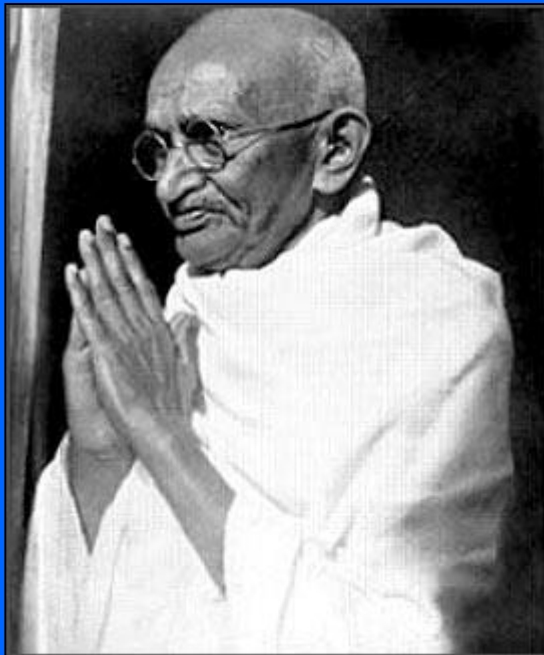
Suit





# Active lead

The killer lead!  
You've got a great  
lead and eager to  
get to it.



# Passive

You haven't got a  
great lead – be  
passive and don't  
give a cheap trick

# 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Function:**



**Send a message to your partner about your hand. Partner, you need to pay attention!**



**Probably has 4**

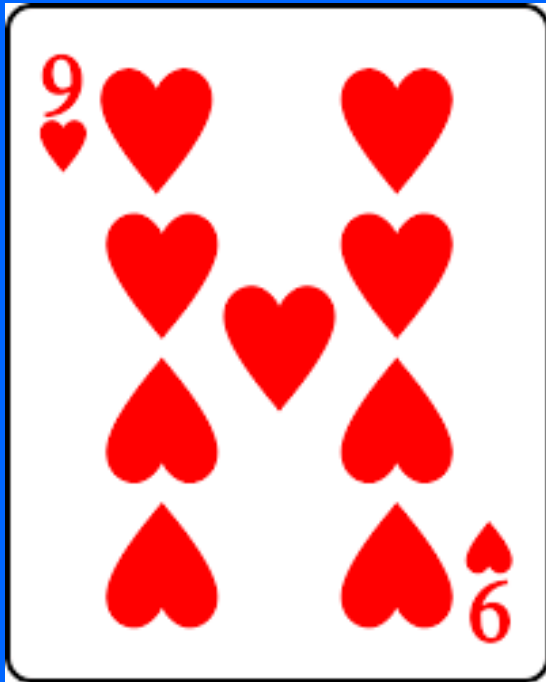
**Hasn't got the King**

**Hasn't got the Ace**

**Does have the Jack**

**May have the 10**

**Get a chance, return the lead**



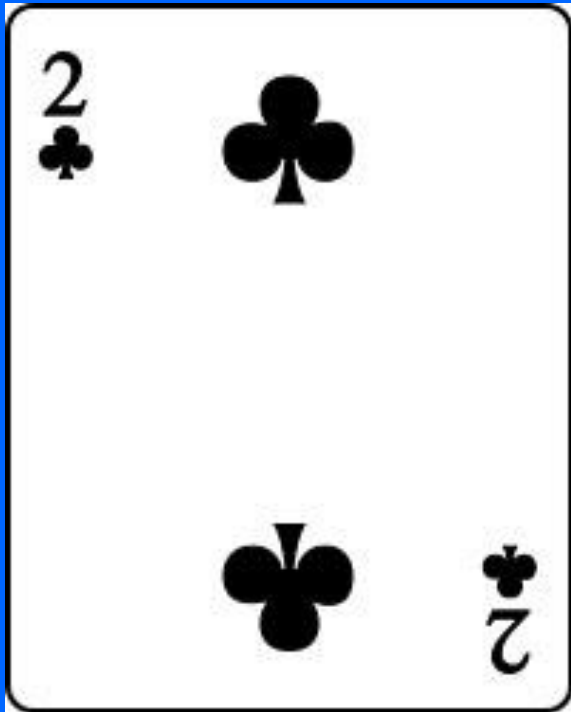
Has nothing in hearts

Don't lead it back

Have 2 of them or 4

9 8 4

Lead low from something – she has an honour in this suit



Probably 4 – maybe 3

It's a poor lead – so hasn't got touching honours in another suit that hasn't been bid – trumps is alternative here and yet has decided not to lead trump – maybe has only 1 – or two to an honour.



**Has the 10**

**Has 3 or 4 in the suit**

**May have the K**

**Same lead in both NT and  
Suit contracts**

**Doesn't have the Ace**

**Doesn't have the Queen**

**Against a  
NT  
Contract**

**Fourth  
highest from  
your longest  
and strongest.**



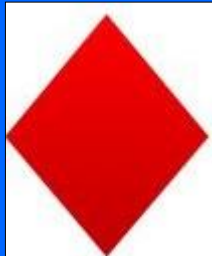
West	North	East	South
	You		P
			1S
1NT	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass



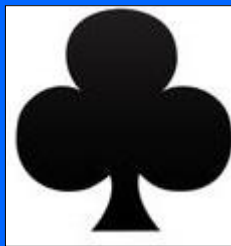
10 4



J 7 4



7 6 4 3 2



10 8 2

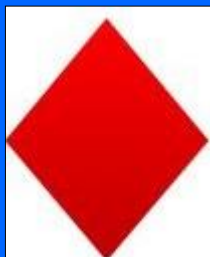
West	North	East	South
You		P	
			1S
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	



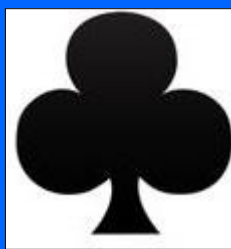
A Q 4 2



K J 7



K J 3



J 10 2

# Rule of 11

**Subtract the card led from eleven; the answer is the number of cards which are higher than that, in the other three hands.**

*In other words it will tell you a lot about declarer's hand.*

**K 10 4 2**

**West**

**You**

**7 led**

**J 8 5**

**6 3**

**Declarer can use it too.**

**K J 4 2**

**West**

**You**

**6 led**

**A 9 7**

# The Standard Leads



**honours**

**high**

**low**

## Standard Leads

- Top of touching honours (3)

K Q J 4 (Great lead!)

- Top of touching honours (2)

Q J 6 5 (Great Lead!)

- Top of inside touching honours

K J 10 6 (Good Lead)





**A K**

**Doubleton (good)**



## Honours

**Do not lead....**

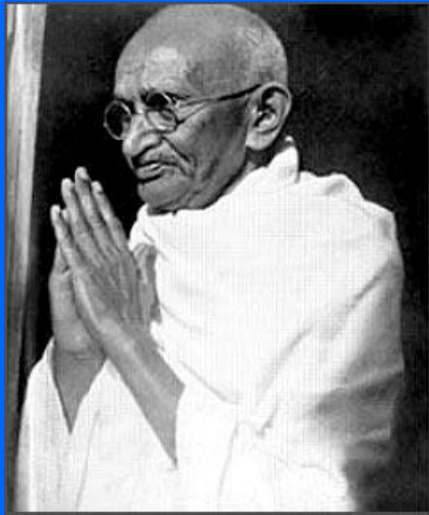
**Doubletons or singletons**

**Never underlead an ACE!!**

**Never underlead an King.**

**Don't lead from a broken  
suit.    K J 7 3**





# High card leads



9 8 4

8 6 3 2



**Low means no!  
High for Hate!**

**High – Low = an even number of cards  
Low – High = an odd number of cards  
It's central to leads**

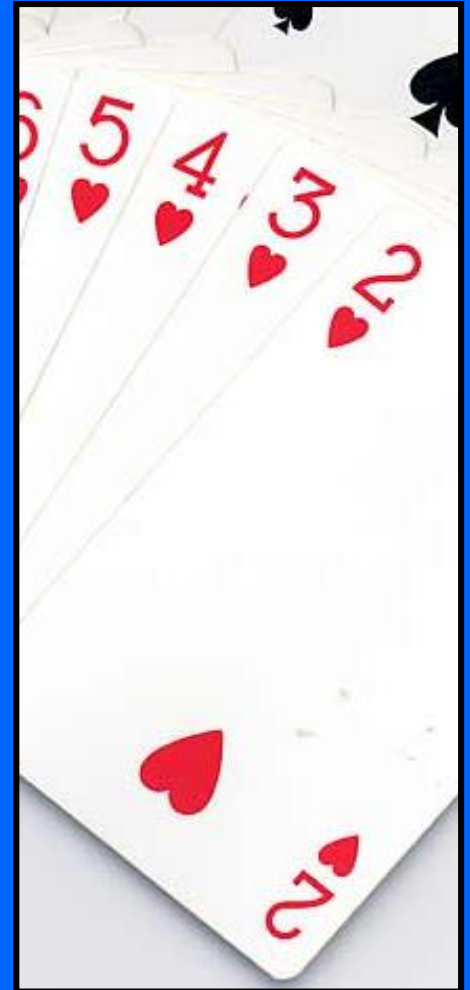
**But that's another  
Seminar!**

# The Low lead

High from nothing, low from something. Not usually first choice.

Telling your partner that you've got something in that suit.

Q 7 4 3



## When do I lead trumps?

- 1) When other suits are unsafe to lead.
- 2) When you have a good defensive holding in declarer's second suit.
- 3) When ops have made an immediate jump in trump suit – planning on ruffing?
- 4) When you double for takeout – but partner passes, converting it to penalties.

# In a slam – do I lead my ace?

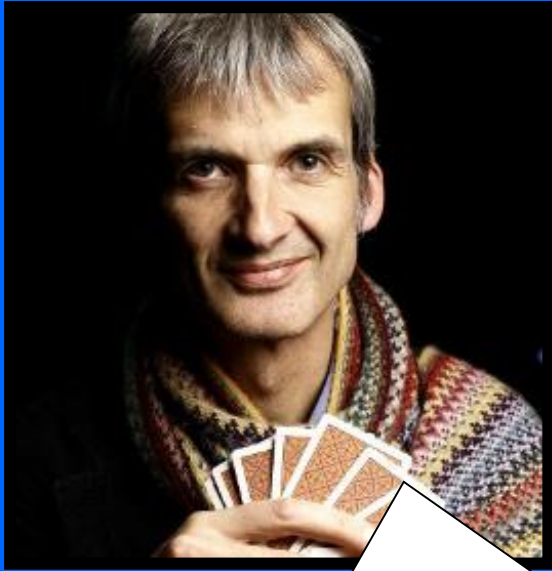
Yes, if by leading it you defeat the contract.

No if you don't. Try, with your P to set up a trick, get back in with Ace – and take two.

# Leading your partner's suit

Ace if you have it, and then High  
for hate and Low for Like.





# Three step Guide to finding the lead

- 1) **Go for the Great lead. If not there...**
- 2) **Eliminate the **must not** leads.**
- 3) **Look at what's left – the passive leads.**



# Got a Great lead?

**Ace from Ace King**      A K 7 3

**Single from a weak hand**

**Partner's Suit**      (Ace, then high for hate etc)

**King from King Queen**      K Q J 6

**Queen from Queen Jack**      Q J 3 2

**Jack from Jack Ten**      K J 10 8

**Ten from Ten-Nine**      10 9 7 4

best

good



## If not, eliminate the no-no leads:

Away from an Ace

~~A 9 7 4~~

Opponents suit

Honour doubleton

~~Q 3~~



## You'll be left with the “so-so” leads:

Top of a small doubleton      4 3

High from a suit you hate      8 5 4 3

Low from a suit you like      Q 9 6 4

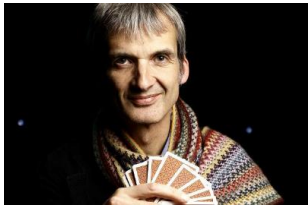
Trumps – not a singleton, but from small  
doubleton or three

**A good lead and return from partner  
will get declarer down!**



**Boards 1-4 Standard**

**Boards 5-8 Tricky**



Listen to the bidding!  
Think Shape  
Partner's Suit  
Unbid Suit

## Examples:

- \* The opps bid 5 clubs or 5 diamonds.

*They will be weak in one suit or else they would have finished in 3 NT. Lead your strongest suit.*

- \* The Opps are in 3NT by a circuitous route

*They probably do not have a an 8 card fit in a major. If you have a doubleton in a major – partner probably has at least four: Lead the heart doubleton.*

- \* The Opps are in 6 Spades. You Hold: **S** A4 **H** 10875 **D** 9764 **C** QJ10

In a slam don't play your ace unless you know it will set them straight away. Queen of Clubs looks attractive but think shape. How many diamonds can partner have? Lead a diamond, when you get in with Ace of spades give partner a diamond ruff. Down one.

Bidding:	North	South
	1 D	1 S
	1 NT	3 D
	3 S	4 NT
	5 H	6 S

## Do you have a great lead?



<b>Ace from Ace King</b>	<b><u>A</u> K 7 3</b>
<b>Single from a weak hand</b>	
<b>Partner's Suit</b> (Ace, then high for hate etc)	
<b>King from King Queen</b>	<b><u>K</u> Q J 6</b>
<b>Queen from Queen Jack</b>	<b><u>Q</u> J 3 2</b>
<b>Jack from Jack Ten</b>	<b>K <u>J</u> 10 8</b>
<b>Ten from Ten-Nine</b>	<b><u>10</u> 9 7 4</b>

best

good

## If not, eliminate the no-no leads:



<b>Away from an Ace</b>	<b><del>A 9 7 4</del></b>
<b>Opponents suit</b>	
<b>Honour doubleton</b>	<b><del>Q 3</del></b>

worst

poor

## The remaining "so-so" leads:



<b>Top of a small doubleton</b>	<b><u>4</u> 3</b>
<b>High from a suit you hate</b>	<b><u>8</u> 5 4 3</b>
<b>Low from a suit you like</b>	<b>Q 9 6 <u>4</u></b>
<b>Trumps</b>	

## Do you have a great lead?



Ace from Ace King

A K 7 3

Single from a weak hand

Partner's Suit (Ace, then high for hate etc)

King from King Queen

K Q J 6

Queen from Queen Jack

Q J 3 2

Jack from Jack Ten

K J 10 8

Ten from Ten-Nine

10 9 7 4

best

good

## If not, eliminate the no-no leads:



Away from an Ace

~~A 9 7 4~~

Opponents suit

Honour doubleton

~~Q 3~~

worst

poor

## The remaining "so-so" leads:



Top of a small doubleton

4 3

High from a suit you hate

8 5 4 3

Low from a suit you like

Q 9 6 4

Trumps