

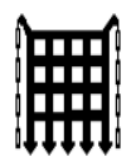
Wallingford Bridge Club
at Roke

Continuers' Course 2019-20

Lesson 6

Opening Leads against No Trumps

15 October 2019



Opening Leads against No Trump Contracts

Primary objective:

Establish the long cards (4th & 5th) in your best suit

This is likely to require you to give up an early trick – not what you would wish to do against a Trump contract.

Secondary objective:

Avoid giving declarer easy wins without any compensation

Opening leads against a No Trump contract

Suit to lead

Information available		Implication / Consideration	Suit to lead
Has Partner bid a suit or doubled an artificial bid as a lead indicator?		Partner likely to be long and reasonably strong in suit	Lead suit bid by or indicated by partner
Suit bid by Declarer		Avoid unless you are very strong in it	
Suit bid by Dummy (or indicated by a transfer)		Avoid if you are strong in it	
Strength of your hand:	1 – 3 HCP	Partner will have reasonable strength	Lead suit in which Partner is likely to have length
	4+ HCP	With 5+ cards in longest suit, try to use your high cards to draw out Opposition winners and promote your 4 th and 5 th cards to be winners	Lead from longest suit
		The more points you have, the weaker Partner will be	With 10+ HCP, & no 5+ card suit, choose a passive lead
No other indication of which suit to lead		For example, if you have a choice of two longest 4 card suits	Prefer to lead a Major rather than a Minor suit

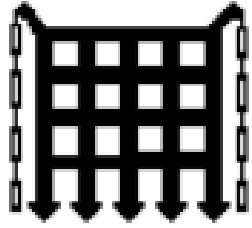
Opening leads against a No Trump contract

Card to lead from chosen suit

Criteria		Examples of what to lead	
1	Top card from a sequence of 3 cards, headed by an honour (incl. 10)	K Q J 8 3	10 9 8 5 2
2	Top card from a broken sequence, headed by an honour	A K J 5 4	Q J 9 6 3
3	Top of an internal sequence, headed by an honour	A Q J 6 2	Q 10 9 7 3
4	The middle of three separated honours	A Q T 6 2	
5	The fourth highest from a long suit with one or two honours (“low” for “like”) *	K Q 5 3 2	J 10 8 5 3
6	The second highest from a long suit with no honours (“high” for “hate”)	9 8 5 3 2	8 6 4 2

* Avoid leading from a suit where you hold a “tenancy”, (AQ, KJ).

Also try to avoid leading a low card from a long suit where you hold only the King or the Queen.



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Thank you