

# U3A Improvers Bridge

## Lesson 14 *Signals and Discards*

It is sometimes possible to indicate to partner whether or not you like his lead and hence whether or not he should continue the suit.

Against 3NT partner leads K ♠, you hold J 9 2. Knowing partner has the Q you want him to continue so you play an unnecessarily high card – here 9 ♠ - to ENCOURAGE, but if you held 9 6 2 you would play 2♠ to DISCOURAGE, perhaps saving partner from leading Q♠ into declarer's AJ.

Against 4♠ partner leads A♥, you hold J 9. You know partner has K so you play J then the 9, thinking you have Q partner will continue the suit but now you can trump the third round. With J 9 2 you would play 2

The rule therefore is: HIGH = LIKE; LOW = DON'T LIKE

You can also sometimes show partner what suit you would like him to switch to by applying the same rule to your discards.

East/West Vulnerable. Dealer South

	♠ K976 ♥ 864 ♦ Q54 ♣ 653		
♠ A83		♠ Void	
♥ AKJ93		♥ Q10752	
♦ 107		♦ AKJ92	
♣ 1074		♣ 982	
	♠ QJ10542 ♥ Void ♦ 863 ♣ AKQJ		
West	North	East	South
Pass	2♠	Pass	1♠ 4♠

West leads A♥, East encourages with 10 but South trumps and leads a spade, West wins A. What next, clearly a ♣ or a ♦, but which? When partner discards 9♦ on spade West knows he must lead a ♦. If East held ♦AKJ32 (i.e. no high card to encourage) he would play ♣2 to discourage a ♣ and hence again point to a ♦ lead.