

## **A LEADING QUESTION**

### **THREE – STEP DECISION**

Selecting an opening lead is a 2 -part decision, you choose the suit first, then the specific card.

This decision will be easier and more successful if you back up and ask a broader question: Does this auction call for a passive lead or an aggressive lead?

### **AGGRESSIVE LEADS:**

How do you know when an aggressive lead is the best choice? One of your strongest clues comes when the opponent's auction identifies a long suit that can be set up as a source of tricks.

### **PASSIVE LEADS:**

Your goal is to make a safe opening lead that won't give declarer a "cheap" or undeserved trick. Some of the contracts and types of auctions that call for a safe, non-attacking opening lead.

1. Opponents are in 6 NT or a grand slam
2. Auction tells you that declarer has a strong hand and dummy is weak

**A LEAD FROM 3 SMALL SHOULD BE YOUR LAST CHOICE.**

### **PICKING THE RIGHT SUIT**

1. What did you learn from the bidding?
2. Did partner bid?
3. Do you have a short suit, try for ruffs, should have trump control?
4. Strong honor sequence, KQJ, lead the K
5. Length in declarer's suit, lead long suit, try to make declarer ruff