

## §67. Signalling when Discarding.

### Notes on the basic principles to be taught in this chapter.

- This chapter is all about discards and how to tell partner which suit to switch to.
- *Suit-preference discards* (Lavinthal, revolving, odd-even etc) are controversial and have no part in this course.
- The basic principle is that a high discard encourages that suit, a low card discourages that suit.

Five hands need preparing (overleaf). Four are full deals, whereas “Hand” 4 is not.

**Hand 1a & Hand 1b** (appear as Hands 1 & 2 in the student notes rotated 90°). Both are played by North in 3NT; East leads the ♠3.

Best to show only the West cards and dummy (South). Declarer wins the Club lead on table and plays a second Club. How should West defend?

These hands illustrate the principle of discarding as high a card as can be afforded to make it clear to partner which suit to lead.

In Hand 1a it may be enough to ditch the ♥2 on the second Club, but East still might not get the point. The ♦10 is unambiguous.

In Hand 1b it is positively dangerous to ditch the ♥7 as East may read that as “lead a Heart”.

In both cases, a Diamond discard makes 3NT fail by two tricks instead of three. In the grand scheme of things, this is less important than risking a contract making.

### Paint your pictures in the brightest colours!

**Hand 2** (appears as Hand 3 in the student notes, rotated 180°). East plays in 4♠; South leads the ♠2.

Best to show only the North cards and dummy (West).

This deal is about *negative discards*. Declarer draws trumps allowing two discards. North should throw a Diamond and then a Club.

By discarding a low Diamond first, partner knows which red suit to switch to (Hearts).

**Hand 3** (appears as Hand 4 in the student notes, rotated 90°). South plays in 4♥; West leads the ♠J.

Best to show only the West cards and dummy (North).

This deal is about holding up the Ace of trumps to allow partner to make a telling discard.

Here, after East discards a low Diamond on the second round of trumps, West can find the killing ♣10 switch at trick four.

“**Hand**” 4 appears in the student notes as separate suit combinations (Examples 1-6).

Spades form Example 1 (North and West only);

Hearts form Examples 2, 3 & 4 (Ex 2, South & West only, Ex 3 East & South only, Ex 4, all hands);

Diamonds form Example 5 (West & North only);

Clubs form Example 6 (South & East only).

**Hand 5** (appears as Hand 5 in the student notes). West plays in 3NT; North leads the ♠6.

Here, the whole hand could be laid out and the problems discussed

This deal about finding partner’s entry in No-trumps in order to lead back opener’s suit.

There is a parallel here with Hand 3 in that it may be best to hold up an Ace, not (only) to break communications but to allow partner to make a telling discard. After taking the ♦A, if North switches to a Heart, 3NT fails by three. If North switches to a Club, 3NT makes (four Clubs, four Diamonds and a Spade).

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hand 1a</b></p> <p>North plays in 3NT; ♣3 lead.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>♠ Q 7 ♥ A Q 7 4 3 ♦ 7 4 2 ♣ 8 5 4</p> <p>♠ 10 8 ♥ 10 9 8 2 ♦ A Q 10 9 8 3 ♣ 6</p> </div> <div style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"> <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>♠ K 5 4 3 ♥ 6 5 ♦ 6 5 ♣ A 9 7 3 2</p> <p>♠ A J 9 6 2 ♥ K J ♦ K J ♣ K Q J 10</p> </div> </div>	N	E	W	S	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hand 1b</b></p> <p>North plays in 3NT; ♣3 lead.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>♠ Q 7 ♥ A Q 4 3 2 ♦ 7 4 2 ♣ 8 5 4</p> <p>♠ 10 8 ♥ 10 9 8 7 ♦ A Q 10 9 8 3 ♣ 6</p> </div> <div style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"> <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>♠ K 5 4 3 ♥ 6 5 ♦ 6 5 ♣ A 9 7 3 2</p> <p>♠ A J 9 6 2 ♥ K J ♦ K J ♣ K Q J 10</p> </div> </div>	N	E	W	S
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<p>Hand 1b can be created from Hand 1a by swapping West's ♥2 with North's ♥7 Students can do this <i>in situ</i>.</p>									
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hand 2</b></p> <p>East plays in 4♠; ♠2 lead.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>♠ 3 ♥ K J 3 2 ♦ 8 7 3 2 ♣ 8 7 5 2</p> <p>♠ J 7 6 4 ♥ A Q 5 ♦ A Q 5 ♣ J 10 9</p> </div> <div style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"> <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>♠ A K Q 10 8 ♥ 8 7 6 ♦ K J 6 ♣ K 4</p> <p>♠ 9 5 2 ♥ 10 9 4 ♦ 10 9 4 ♣ A Q 6 3</p> </div> </div>	N	E	W	S	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hand 3</b></p> <p>South plays in 4♥; ♠J lead.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>♠ A ♥ Q J 9 6 ♦ K J 4 3 ♣ K J 5 4</p> <p>♠ J 10 9 8 7 ♥ A 5 3 ♦ 7 6 5 ♣ 10 8</p> </div> <div style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"> <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>♠ Q 6 4 3 2 ♥ 7 ♦ 9 8 2 ♣ A Q 6 3</p> <p>♠ K 5 ♥ K 10 8 4 2 ♦ A Q 10 ♣ 9 7 2</p> </div> </div>	N	E	W	S
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Hand” 4</b></p> <p>Irrelevant suits have been greyed out.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>♠ K J 10 9 ♥ K 5 ♦ 7 6 3 ♣ 8 7 6 2</p> <p>♠ A Q 5 ♥ Q J 10 9 2 ♦ K 8 4 ♣ 5 4</p> </div> <div style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"> <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>♠ 7 3 2 ♥ A 8 4 ♦ Q J 10 9 2 ♣ A 3</p> <p>♠ 8 6 4 ♥ 7 6 3 ♦ A 5 ♣ K Q J 10 9</p> </div> </div>	N	E	W	S	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hand 5</b></p> <p>West plays in 3NT; ♠6 lead.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>♠ A Q 10 6 5 3 ♥ 8 7 ♦ A 7 4 ♣ 8 7</p> <p>♠ K J 9 ♥ Q J 10 ♦ K 8 6 ♣ A Q J 3</p> </div> <div style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"> <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">N</td><td style="padding: 2px;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">W</td><td style="padding: 2px;">S</td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>♠ 8 7 ♥ K 4 2 ♦ Q J 10 9 5 ♣ K 4 2</p> <p>♠ 4 2 ♥ A 9 6 5 3 ♦ 3 2 ♣ 10 9 6 5</p> </div> </div>	N	E	W	S
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