

§66. McKenney Suit-preference Signals 2. No-trump Contracts.

Notes on the basic principles to be taught in this section.

- This section is all about indicating an entry for the defender with the long suit.
- The principle is that the card used to clear a long suit has McKenney implications.

Three hand need preparing (overleaf). They are all full deals.

Hand 1 (appears as Hand 1 in the student notes, rotated 90°). North plays in 3NT; East leads the ♠4.

This deal gives West a problem at trick five. To demonstrate this, it is best to display just the dummy (South) and the West cards and talk the students through the first few tricks.

Spade lead to the ♠A; Spade return to declarer's ♠J and East's ♠K; Spade at trick three "clearing" the suit; Club finesse taken into the ♣K.

The crux of the hand has now been reached. *What should West lead and why?*

The point to ask is what Spade did lead did East play at trick three? Discussions can ensue of the meanings around the play of equal cards in this situation (explained more fully in Example 1 in the student notes)

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

The Diamond layout here is identical to the Spade layout of Hand 1. North is given a problem at trick five, in similar vein to West on Hand 1.

After a Diamond to the ♦A and another Diamond, South can clear the Diamonds. However, when North gets on lead what is he supposed to lead? How can he tell?

Here, South should play the ♦9 at trick three, indicating that his entry is in the higher of the two remaining suits (Spades and Hearts). It is inconceivable that South wants a Club lead. The ♦2 would indicate interest in Hearts.

Hand 3 (appears as Hand 3 in the student notes). South plays in 3NT; West leads the ♠J.

West leads the ♠J after North-South have used Stayman over a 2NT opening (South has shown four Hearts, North has implied four Spades). East takes the ♠A and returns a Spade, making the distribution of the suit crystal clear to West.

If East gains the lead, West wants his partner to play a Heart, not a Club. He can afford to drop a high Spade as a signal on the second round to show interest in Hearts; failure to do this will see East switching to Clubs for sure. Now declarer will make four Diamonds, four Clubs and a Spade for his contract.

Dropping the ♠10 at trick two shows interest in Hearts; dropping the ♠2 would show interest in Clubs (or, at the very least, no interest in Spades as West has to follow suit with something!)

§66. McKenney Suit-preference Signals 2. No-trump Contracts.

<p style="text-align: center;">Hand 1</p> <p>North plays in 3NT; ♠4 lead.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ Q J 6 ♥ A K Q ♦ Q J 9 5 ♣ 10 9 5</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">♠ A 5 ♥ J 10 9 8 3 ♦ 10 7 3 2 ♣ K 4</td> <td style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <table style="margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">♠ K 9 7 4 2 ♥ 7 4 2 ♦ A 8 4 ♣ 8 6</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ 10 8 3 ♥ 6 5 ♦ K 6 ♣ A Q J 7 3 2</p>	♠ A 5 ♥ J 10 9 8 3 ♦ 10 7 3 2 ♣ K 4	<table style="margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K 9 7 4 2 ♥ 7 4 2 ♦ A 8 4 ♣ 8 6	<p style="text-align: center;">Hand 2</p> <p>East plays in 3NT; ♦4 lead.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ 9 7 6 5 3 ♥ 9 7 6 5 3 ♦ A 5 ♣ A</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">♠ K 10 ♥ K 10 ♦ 10 8 3 ♣ K Q J 7 3 2</td> <td style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <table style="margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">♠ Q J 8 ♥ A Q J ♦ Q J 6 ♣ 10 9 5 4</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ A 4 2 ♥ 8 4 2 ♦ K 9 7 4 2 ♣ 8 6</p>	♠ K 10 ♥ K 10 ♦ 10 8 3 ♣ K Q J 7 3 2	<table style="margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q J 8 ♥ A Q J ♦ Q J 6 ♣ 10 9 5 4
♠ A 5 ♥ J 10 9 8 3 ♦ 10 7 3 2 ♣ K 4	<table style="margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K 9 7 4 2 ♥ 7 4 2 ♦ A 8 4 ♣ 8 6														
	N																								
W		E																							
	S																								
♠ K 10 ♥ K 10 ♦ 10 8 3 ♣ K Q J 7 3 2	<table style="margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q J 8 ♥ A Q J ♦ Q J 6 ♣ 10 9 5 4														
	N																								
W		E																							
	S																								
<p style="text-align: center;">Hand 3</p> <p>South plays in 3NT; ♠J lead.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ 7 6 4 3 ♥ Q 9 ♦ Q 10 9 8 7 ♣ Q 9</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">♠ J 10 9 8 2 ♥ A 3 ♦ 6 5 3 2 ♣ 7 3</td> <td style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <table style="margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">♠ A 5 ♥ 10 8 5 4 2 ♦ A ♣ 10 8 5 4 2</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">♠ K Q ♥ K J 7 6 ♦ K J 4 ♣ A K J 6</p>		♠ J 10 9 8 2 ♥ A 3 ♦ 6 5 3 2 ♣ 7 3	<table style="margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A 5 ♥ 10 8 5 4 2 ♦ A ♣ 10 8 5 4 2												
♠ J 10 9 8 2 ♥ A 3 ♦ 6 5 3 2 ♣ 7 3	<table style="margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A 5 ♥ 10 8 5 4 2 ♦ A ♣ 10 8 5 4 2														
	N																								
W		E																							
	S																								