

## Next Steps Seminar on Counting and Card Placement - Hands

<p>♠ 842 ♥ J73 ♦ AQ ♣ AJ742</p> <p>♠ 6                      ♠ KJ973 ♥ A965                  ♥ KQ2 ♦ 976543                ♦ 108 ♣ 85                      ♣ Q109</p> <p>♠ AQ105 ♥ 1084 ♦ KJ2 ♣ K63</p>		<p><b>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</b></p> <table><tr><td><b>West</b></td><td><b>North</b></td><td><b>East</b></td><td><b>South</b></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td></tr></table> <p>All Pass</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Opening Lead: ♠7</b></p> <p>You have avoided a heart lead which would have allowed the defenders to take four heart tricks immediately but if you lose the first trick a heart switch will defeat you. Which spade should you play? The Rule of Eleven provides the answer. It tells us that there are four (11-7) spades higher than the 7 in the remaining three hands. You can see all of these in the NS hands. The correct play is low from dummy, winning the trick in declarer's hand with the 8. You can then finesse twice more in spades and will make nine tricks without having to risk the (losing) club finesse.</p>		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>		1NT	Pass	3NT																														
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<p>♠ 6 ♥ J10963 ♦ Q96 ♣ KJ102</p> <p>♠ KJ832                  ♠ AQ974 ♥ Q54                    ♥ 2 ♦ AJ7                     ♦ K102 ♣ Q3                      ♣ 9865</p> <p>♠ 105 ♥ AK87 ♦ 8543 ♣ A74</p>		<p><b>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</b></p> <table><tr><td><b>West</b></td><td><b>North</b></td><td><b>East</b></td><td><b>South</b></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♠(1)</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♠(2)</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p><b>Opening Lead: ♥J</b></p> <p>(1) West 'breaks' the transfer by jumping to 3♠, rather than bidding the more usual 2♠, as she knows there is at least a 10-card fit and game may be on even if East has fewer than 11 points.</p> <p>(2) East would normally pass after West completes the transfer but after West has jumped, East upgrades her hand (that singleton heart is so valuable) and bids game.</p> <p>South will win the first trick with ♥K. North would not underlead the ♥A against a suit contract so South started with ♥AKx.. South will switch to a spade. Trumps are drawn. There are two certain club losers so the contract depends on locating the ♦Q. Two-way guesses like this are common and the general principle is to delay making your decision until you've gathered as much evidence as possible about the defenders' hands. After drawing trumps declarer should play a club. North wins, say, and plays another heart, ruffed in dummy. A second club is played and the next heart lead is ruffed. When a third club is played South, if she hasn't already done so, must play the A. You now know where the ♦Q is. If South had started with ♥AK, ♦Q and ♣A she would have opened the bidding. As she didn't, North must hold the ♦Q.</p>		<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>			Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♠(1)	Pass	4♠(2)	All Pass																						
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<p>♠ 6432 ♥ 10 ♦ 86432 ♣ Q65</p> <p>♠ KQ10      ♠ AJ8 ♥ 82      ♥ A93 ♦ A97      ♦ KQJ ♣ A10932      ♣ KJ87</p> <p>♠ 975 ♥ KQJ7654 ♦ 105 ♣ 4</p>		<p><b>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</b></p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>3♥</td></tr><tr><td>Dbl</td><td>Pass</td><td>6NT</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <p><b>Opening Lead: ♥K</b></p> <p>This might not have been your auction but the contract is a reasonable one depending only on avoiding a club loser. The key to this hand is working out the exact shape of South's hand. The first point to make is that even if the club suit produces five tricks there will still be an inevitable heart loser. It's almost certain that South has 7 hearts but it costs nothing to duck the first trick and win the continuation. North discards, confirming the expected holding. South is now known to hold six cards outside the heart suit. Declarer should now cash three spade and two diamond tricks (or vice versa). Simple arithmetic shows that if South follows suit only three times she has three clubs, four times would show two clubs and, as here, five times shows one club (or possibly a club void). Declarer now knows that North holds ♣Qxx(x). A small club to dummy's A confirms South has a singleton club and the finesse against North's Q brings the suit in without loss.</p>		West	North	East	South				3♥	Dbl	Pass	6NT	All Pass																														
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<p>♠ K1096 ♥ J54 ♦ K543 ♣ 76</p> <p>♠ 85      ♠ 32 ♥ KQ10      ♥ A876 ♦ A762      ♦ Q108 ♣ Q832      ♣ A954</p> <p>♠ AQJ74 ♥ 932 ♦ J9 ♣ KJ10</p>		<p><b>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</b></p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1♠</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td></tr></table> <p><b>Opening Lead: ♥K</b></p> <p>This hand is not easy so feel very pleased if you got it right (for the right reason) and don't worry if you got it wrong.</p> <p>The defence starts with three rounds of hearts. East then switches to a low club. This is good defence as it forces you into making a guess you would rather have delayed until later in the hand. You'll notice that the defence have the majority of HCPs but haven't bid. If either defender held 12 HCPs they would have bid so the defenders' point are divided 11-10. Also note that having lost the first three tricks you can only afford to lose one trick in each of the minor suits. Looking at the club suit, if West holds ♣AQ... there is nothing you can do. If East holds ♣AQ... you can't go wrong. We're only concerned with the situation where the honours are split. Turning now to diamonds, it's clear that we can only avoid two diamond losers if West has the A so to have any chance of making our contract we have to assume that that's the case. This is an example of card placement by assumption. Now go back to the</p>		West	North	East	South	Pass	Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass																															
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<p>♠AJ1082 ♥Q87 ♦J108 ♣AJ</p> <p>♠9                    ♠Q7643 ♥AJ10964           ♥K5 ♦AK3                ♦962 ♣942                ♣Q65</p> <p>♠K5 ♥32 ♦Q754 ♣K10873</p>		<p><b>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</b></p> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♥</td><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Opening Lead: ♦J</b></p> <p>It looks as though you will make 2♥ if you can avoid a trump loser. Trumps will need to break 3-2 and you will need to work out where the Q is. To do this ask yourself a series of questions. Firstly, what would North lead if she held ♠AK? Almost certainly the ♠A. Similarly, what would North lead holding ♣AK? Almost certainly ♣A. South, therefore, has ♠A or K and ♣A or K. What about diamonds? The lead of ♦J denies the Q so South has that card as well. So far you have assigned at least 8 HCPs to South. If she also held ♥Q that would be at least 10 HCPs leaving North with, at most, 11 HCPs. As this is not enough for a 1NT opening North must have the ♥Q. The correct way to play trumps is to lead ♥J from the West hand and play low from dummy if North does not cover.</p>		West	North	East	South		1NT	Pass	Pass	2♥	All Pass																																																					
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