

BRIDGE

Unit 10

DEVELOP YOUR DEFENSIVE PLAY

Three units have been devoted to an often neglected part of the game - Defence. This unit will provide some welcome revision/confirmation about your defensive play which is, as we keep saying, the most difficult part of the game. Unfortunately, for good defence, you need a good partner who gives signals and more importantly, sees the signals that you are giving.

The first few lessons will look again at the problem of knowing which card of which suit to lead and how to read the lead.

Closely connected to opening leads, we will look at the principles of the the forcing defence when you are on lead and have four of the enemies trumps.

We will include a number of lessons which will develop your knowledge of McKenney suit preference signals and the situations in which you might use them. Holding off until partner can give you a suit preference signal is another ducking situation which will be explored.

Please use the North Eastern Bridge Association's web site at www.neba.co.uk where you will find lots of useful information on bidding and play techniques, events, links, news and results from our area.

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WHEN TO LEAD TRUMPS

Beginners do not lead trumps because they think that either they or their partner will be able to win tricks by ruffing. However, when appropriate, a reasonable declarer would usually draw trumps before your side can ruff.

Why is declarer playing in a suit contract rather than NTs? because declarer wants to win extra tricks by ruffing.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>♠ 3 ♥ QJ754 ♦ K63 ♣ J1043</p> | <p>S N 1♠ 1NT 2♦ pass</p> | |
| <p>♠ AQ108 ♥ 83 ♦ 754 ♣ K965</p> | | <p>♠ 652 ♥ K1096 ♦ 982 ♣ AQ7</p> |
| <p>♠ KJ974 ♥ A2 ♦ AQJ10 ♣ 82</p> | | |

North has give preference to diamonds by passing 2♦
South is going to ruff spades in dummy.
Lead a diamond!
When in with ♠A, lead another diamond!

LEAD TRUMPS

when you have a strong holding in declarer's 1st suit.

LEAD TRUMPS when you have no obvious suit from which to lead. e.g.

1. No suit with a sequence,
2. No AK holding,
3. No suit bid by partner,
4. No singleton, (or *doubleton in an otherwise *weak* hand),
5. Awkward tenaces in a *strong-ish* hand (when partner is unlikely to have high cards).

*Leading a doubleton when you have 10ish pts. and three small trumps, is unlikely to work unless it is a low level contract. Ask yourself whether partner can have the points to get on lead, to give you ruffs?

LEAD TRUMPS when your trump holding is similar to

1. Kxx or Axx in the trump suit. (Lead a low card. Assuming no interest in ruffing yourself.)
2. xxx. Usually very safe
3. xx. Not so good if the bidding has shown only a 4/4 fit. (Partner may hold Qxx)
4. AKx Lead, ace, king and another. (Assuming no interest in ruffing yourself.)

DO NOT LEAD TRUMPS

1. **When the bidding has revealed that declarer has a long side suit to run that you cannot stop.**
2. When you hold a trump tenace. e.g. KJx
3. When you hold a singleton trump. (You are too likely to trap partner's honour holding.)
4. When there are realistic possibilities of scoring ruffs.
5. When you hold four trumps and a decent side suit. Lead your own strong suit. See pages 17/18

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>♠ J976 ♥ A8 ♦ AQJ104 ♣ 82</p> | <p>N S 1♦ 1♠ 2♠ 4♠</p> | |
| <p>♠ 108 ♥ 10543 ♦ 753 ♣ A965</p> | | <p>♠ A5 ♥ K962 ♦ 982 ♣ K743</p> |
| <p>♠ KQ432 ♥ QJ7 ♦ K6 ♣ QJ10</p> | | |

This is an example of when NOT to lead trumps!
West realises that declarer has a 5 card diamond suit but unlike the 1st example, west can not stop declarer from throwing losers on this side suit.

A 'dangerous' attacking lead is required.
As you can see, there ARE four tricks for E/W - *if you can find them.*

OPENING LEADS AGAINST NT CONTRACTS

Bidding on hands
1 - 8 was 1NT - 3NT

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| ♠ AKQ952 | 1 |
| ♥ 862 | |
| ♦ 93 | |
| ♣ 105 | |
| I've seen 4th highest ! | |

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| ♠ AK9752 | 2 |
| ♥ 862 | |
| ♦ 93 | |
| ♣ 105 | |
| Here, lead 4th highest | |

| | |
|------------------|---|
| ♠ AK975 | 3 |
| ♥ K102 | |
| ♦ 93 | |
| ♣ Q54 | |
| Nothing certain. | |

On each of these you are playing for the seven missing cards to split 3 - 2 - 2.

On hand 1. leading the ace will usually work.

On hand 2. 4th highest caters for partner having two and an outside entry.

On hand 3. leading 4th highest is best if partner holds Q5 or Q109 or with your entries ace may work.

Defending 3NT, always ask yourself before making your lead, how many points does partner have?

| | |
|------------------|---|
| ♠ J432 | 4 |
| ♥ 862 | |
| ♦ 932 | |
| ♣ 1054 | |
| Lead for partner | |

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| ♠ J | 5 |
| ♥ 8642 | |
| ♦ 9873 | |
| ♣ 10865 | |
| Who has spades & pts? | |

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| ♠ KJ2 | 6 |
| ♥ KJ2 | |
| ♦ 975 | |
| ♣ KJ62 | |
| Partner has 0-3 pts. | |

In hand 4. the 4th highest is OK but how will you get to your ♠J? ♥6 may be better

In hand 5. no one will argue against ♥2, but thinking it through, the J♠ could be good!

In hand 6. leading from tenaces is not attractive. The ♣2 is the obvious 4th highest lead and partner might have the ♣Q, but a safer lead might be the 7♦.

An incredibly risky lead which could set the contract would be king of the major suit in which partner held Qxxxxx and the opponents Ax.

With Axx they would hold up for two rounds before playing the ace wouldn't they?!

Defending 3NT, always ask yourself before making your lead, how many points does partner have?

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| ♠ KQ1032 | 7 |
| ♥ 96 | |
| ♦ AQ642 | |
| ♣ 85 | |
| Partner has 0-3 pts? | |

| | |
|---------|---|
| ♠ KQ732 | 8 |
| ♥ 86 | |
| ♦ AQ94 | |
| ♣ 108 | |

| | |
|--------|-----|
| ♠ K862 | 9 |
| ♥ 872 | |
| ♦ KJ2 | |
| ♣ 852 | |
| S N | |
| 1♦ | 2♣ |
| 2NT | 3NT |

In hand 7. lead the ♠K (Near sequence) Partner must play any honour card held or without an honour, give count.

In hand 8. lead the ♠3 (4th highest.) Top of sequence leads against NTs require **three** touching cards

In hand 9. lead 7♥ (MUD) Neither major has been bid.

Leading from a poor four card suit is not generally a good option.

As well as clues from your own hand and the bidding, sometimes your R.H.O. will have bid NTs somewhat reluctantly. Why? Well he may have a stop, but an otherwise poor holding in an unbid suit.

Similarly if he has bid, confidently expecting a particular suit to be led. Think twice before leading it

When partner has bid a suit **lead with** **two** **three** **four** **in partner's suit :**

Against a suit contract, it is usually wise to begin with the ace. It would be very embarrassing to allow declarer to make his singleton!

| | | |
|------------|--------------|----------------|
| <u>K</u> 5 | K <u>5</u> 3 | K5 <u>4</u> 3 |
| <u>8</u> 5 | <u>9</u> 85 | <u>9</u> 853 |
| <u>K</u> J | <u>K</u> Q3 | K <u>J</u> 103 |
| <u>A</u> 5 | <u>A</u> 74 | <u>A</u> 963 |

MORE ON OPENING LEADS AGAINST NTs

Bidding on hands 1 & 2 was 1NT - 3NT

Leading from poor hands.

No one may argue against ♥3, but thinking it through, the ♠9 could be good! (Leading for partner.)

1. You have virtually no points.
2. Partner must have points.
3. Responder has shown no interest in the majors.
4. Partner almost certainly has at least four spades

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| ♠ 92 | |
| ♥ 86432 | 3NT by |
| ♦ 9873 | south |
| ♣ 108 | |
| Who has spades and pts? | |

Leading from tenaces is not attractive.

The ♣2 is the obvious fourth highest lead and partner might have the ♣K, but a safer lead might be the ♦7. (MUD)

An incredibly risky lead which could set the contract would be king of the major suit in which partner held Qxxxxx and the opponents Ax.

With Axx they would hold up for two rounds before playing the ace wouldn't they?!

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| ♠ K102 | |
| ♥ KJ2 | 3NT by |
| ♦ 975 | south |
| ♣ AJ62 | |
| Partner has 0-3 pts. | |

Never lead away from a king!?

On this hand you have to lead away from a king and tenaces, and partner has no points!

You probably want to sit back and let declarer find your kings and jacks if he can. A safe lead is called for.

1st choice may be to lead a deceptive ♣8. (Mentally placing the ace and queen of clubs in the north hand, means that you are likely to lose ♣K ♣J anyway)

2nd choice may be to lead ♥2. The unbid major.

3rd choice may be to lead ♦2. The unbid minor.

Worst choice would be to lead ♠2. Perhaps into south's ace/queen!

Zia Mahmood would lead the ♥K to declarer's ace.

Then win the return and play ♥J to the declarer's queen.

Win the third trick and play the two to partner's five hearts to the ♥10.

In your dreams!!!?

| | |
|-----|-----|
| S | N |
| 1♠ | 2♣ |
| 2NT | 3NT |

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| ♠ KJ2 | |
| ♥ KJ2 | 3NT by |
| ♦ KJ2 | south |
| ♣ KJ82 | |
| What a choice! | |

In both of these hands you have a choice between certainties and possibilities!

Could the three missing points be ♦K?
Well they could be, but they are very long odds. Lead the ♠K on both hands.

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| ♠ KQJ5 | |
| ♥ 86 | 3NT by |
| ♦ AQ532 | south |
| ♣ 108 | |
| Certainties v possibilities! | |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| ♠ KQJ32 | |
| ♥ 6 | 3NT by |
| ♦ AQJ32 | south |
| ♣ 108 | |
| Give lead up once or twice? | |

Does partner know what to play on the lead of a king against NTs?

(Partner MUST throw any honour he holds. If none, partner must give count!)

In defence there are three methods of giving lawful signals to your partner, even when simply following to the suit led by your partner .

- 1.) **Count or distribution** (The number of cards you hold in a suit.)
- 2.) **Encouraging/discouraging** (Whether you like partner's lead.)
- 3.) **Suit preference** (Which other suit you prefer.)

We suggest that during an evening's Bridge you should play ALL of these signalling methods. The skill is in recognising the various situations that determine *when* to play them. We suggest that your PRIMARY method of signalling should be COUNT.

1.) COUNT SIGNALS When FOLLOWING to a suit led

It is very important during the play of a hand to get a count on how many cards partner has in specific suits, because from that information you will be able to work out declarer's shape.

With an even number of cards in a suit, you will, wherever possible, play cards in a hi/lo sequence.

e.g. If you hold two rags such as 7-3 of a suit, you should play the 7, and complete the 'peter' by playing the 3. This applies whether you are *leading* or *following suit*

This is not only useful when looking for ruffs against suit contracts, but also in NT contracts when declarer is trying to make a long suit in dummy. e.g. - Declarer wins trick 1, then leads ♣4 towards the otherwise entry-less dummy.

As east, you need to know *when* to take your ♣A.

This is easy when partner follows with ♣8 (showing *two*).

You now know that declarer must have started with *three* clubs.

Therefore you must duck twice to stop him from getting to the winning clubs.

| | | |
|---------|----------|-------|
| | Dummy | |
| | ♠ 86 | |
| | ♥ 103 | |
| | ♦ J82 | |
| | ♣ KQJ109 | |
| Partner | | You |
| ♣ 82 | | ♣ A63 |
| | Declarer | |
| | ♣ 754 | |

With four cards in the suit rather than two, e.g. 9652, your first card on declarer's lead *or* partner's lead should be the 6 and the 'peter' will be completed with the 5.

Hopefully, partner will notice that the 2 has not been played and will 'read' that your length must be four rather than two! With Q952 'peter' by playing the 9 first, and then the 5. (Assuming that you are not trying to win)

When following suit with an odd number of cards, and not playing to win the trick, you would play in the more natural order lo/hi e.g. With 97532 or 532 or Q32 you would follow with the 2 first.

When LEADING from Q952 or Q52, lead the 2 to promise an honour & three or more cards in the suit.

With three rags, make a MUD lead.

NEVER LEAD from a doubleton honour! or even worse - a singleton honour! (unless partner has bid the suit.)

So when do we NOT show count?

Suppose you are defending against 4♠ and partner led ♦A.

It obviously wouldn't matter how many diamonds you had or whether you had the ♦Q or not. Why?

Simply because declarer will be ruffing any diamond continuation!!

So when a singleton turns up in dummy, take the opportunity to give your partner some more useful information. (e.g. which suit to switch to)

Similarly if partner led an ace and KQJ2 appeared in dummy, a switch looks most appropriate!

| | | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| | Dummy | |
| | ♠ AQ862 | |
| | ♥ KJ103 | |
| | ♦ 3 | |
| | ♣ KJ2 | |
| Partner | | You |
| ♦ AK74 | | ♠ 52 |
| | | ♥ AQ5 |
| | | ♦ QJ962 |
| | | ♣ 843 |

OR occasionally partner may struggle for a lead and lead an ace without the king!

IF YOU have the king, play a high card to encourage a continuation.

ATTITUDE (LEADS, DISCARDS & PREFERENCES)

1.) Attitude Leads

The catchy "4th highest of your longest and strongest" is engraved on the consciousness of bridge beginners and is the rarely questioned lead against NT contracts. Interestingly it is usually used in bridge books to illustrate how to use the rule of 11 as declarer rather than defender. e.g. on the lead of a 2 declarer knows that LHO has only four. As declarer I do like defenders revealing their hand this way. (So it cannot be a good lead.)

For this reason alone we recommend that you try **Attitude Leads** where - the lower the card you lead - the more you want it returning. There is no indication of length!

NOTE

Attitude leads should only be used if you do not have a Top of Sequence Lead (which is stills the best lead in the book against any contract). (MUD leads are also valid.)

2.) Attitude Signals on Partner's Lead

The simple principle is to follow with a high card if you like the suit. Follow with a low card if you don't

Discouraging

| |
|---|
| A 5 2 |
| Q J 10 7 9 8 3 |
| K 6 4 |

On the lead of the queen by west, and ace from north, east would play the 3 to say "No interest"

Encouraging

| |
|---|
| A 5 2 |
| Q J 10 7 K 8 3 |
| 9 6 4 |

On the lead of the queen by west, and ace from north, east would play the 8 to say "Please continue."

Beware!

You need to establish with partner which signalling methods you are playing, because playing count, you would, play the 4 from both hands!

Although we do not recommend using these attitude signals as your primary method of signalling, there are situations where they are very useful. e.g.

a. Partner has struggled to find a lead or switch - and leads an ace.
Normally this would promise the king as well. But YOU have the king!
 Follow with a high card to tell partner that YOU have the king.

| | | |
|--------|--|-------|
| A 10 7 | 9 5 2 | K 8 3 |
| | | |
| | Q J 6 4 | |

b. This is a very specific and useful attitude signal.
 When partner leads an ace and you hold the queen AND jack, play the queen.

Against 4♠, west who has most of the defensive HCPs leads ♦A.
 East plays the ♦Q to GUARANTEE the ♦J. (or singleton ♦Q)

The ONLY way to get into east's hand for a heart switch is by trusting partner's signal, and underleading ♦K. West leads ♦9 to east's ♦J

The heart switch is obvious, but at trick two, west leads ♦9 to confirm.
 (A high card asks for the higher of the other two suits, excluding trumps.
See next page.

| | | |
|----------|--|---------|
| Dummy | | |
| | ♠ KQ865 | |
| | ♥ 1083 | |
| | ♦ 864 | |
| | ♣ K5 | |
| Partner | | You |
| ♠ 43 | | ♠ 72 |
| ♥ AQ | | ♥ 96542 |
| ♦ AK975 | | ♦ QJ2 |
| ♣ 10763 | | ♣ 842 |
| Declarer | | |
| | ♠ AJ109 | |
| | ♥ KJ7 | |
| | ♦ 103 | |
| | ♣ AQJ9 | |

3.) Attitude Signals on Discards

When you cannot follow suit, the discard of a high card says "Lead this suit."

You are defending 3♥ and your partner plays the ♠A, ♠K, and the ♠Q.
 On the third spade, you would discard the ♦9 to indicate your strength in that suit, or the ♣3 to discourage clubs. It is nice and simple, but it does mean that you may have to throw a high card which may be a potential trick.

Most bridge players have rejected this method and prefer to use Suit Preference Signals. (next page)

| | |
|---------|---------|
| Partner | You |
| ♠ AKQ53 | ♠ 64 |
| ♥ 103 | ♥ 974 |
| ♦ 865 | ♦ KQJ94 |
| ♣ J92 | ♣ 873 |

SUIT PREFERENCE SIGNALS

McKenney Discards

The notion of discarding a high card in a suit that you want your partner to lead, has been superseded by more advanced suit preference signals. There are a number of alternative suit preference signalling systems which you can play. There is little to choose between them, but McKenney (A.K.A. Levinthall) is perhaps the most popular.

When you cannot follow suit and have to discard a worthless card, that card can tell your partner which of the other *two* suits, (other than trumps,) you would like your partner to lead, when he gets in. A high card asks for the higher of the other two suits, and a low card asks for the lower of the others. two suits. It's that easy! and you don't have to throw a card which may be valuable!

e.g. Spades are trumps. Partner leads a trump and you can't follow suit.

With ♠ - ♥ 96432 ♦ KQJ4 ♣ J832 discard the ♥9 or ♣2 asking for a diamond.

With ♠ - ♥ AK754 ♦ 8654 ♣ J832 discard the ♦8 or ♣8 asking for a heart.

With ♠ - ♥ 96432 ♦ 9754 ♣ KQJ2 discard the ♥2 or ♦4 asking for a club.

Now try it out

| | | |
|----------|-----------------|----------|
| | ♠ Q1082 | |
| | ♥ QJ | |
| | ♦ QJ43 | |
| | ♣ QJ8 | |
| ♠ K4 | | ♠ 76 |
| ♥ 2 | | ♥ AK9874 |
| ♦ 109752 | | ♦ 86 |
| ♣ K10754 | | ♣ 962 |
| | 4♠ by south. | |
| Lead ♥2 | ♠ AJ953 | |
| | ♥ 10653 | |
| | ♦ AK | |
| | ♣ A3 | |

Partner wins the ♥K and then the ace. What did you discard? You want a club return, not a heart ruff. Discard ♦2. If you had wanted a ruff you could have discarded a ♦7 or ♣7, a middle card which would indicate no interest in either suit.

When partner returns the club, declarer who cannot get into the dummy hand, will play low giving west the ♣K. West can now sit back and wait for the ♠K to set the contract.

Not the killing lead but a good recovery!

| | | |
|----------|------------------|---------|
| | ♠ AK | |
| | ♥ 973 | |
| | ♦ AJ84 | |
| | ♣ Q1076 | |
| ♠ J10952 | | ♠ 764 |
| ♥ AKJ2 | | ♥ 1084 |
| ♦ 10972 | | ♦ 65 |
| ♣ - | | ♣ A9854 |
| | 3NT by south. | |
| Lead ♠J | ♠ Q83 | |
| | ♥ Q65 | |
| | ♦ KQ3 | |
| | ♣ KJ32 | |

Declarer wins the ♠J lead with the ♠A.

Declarer can count three spade tricks and four diamond tricks.

Declarer must establish at least two tricks in clubs, and therefore plays ♣6 from dummy.

Partner rises immediately with the ♣A with the intention of knocking out the ♠A.

Which card do you throw on the ♣A?

Yes, the ♠9 saying, not spades and asking for a heart switch!

The discard of an honour asks for THAT SUIT, not the higher of the remaining two suits.

McKENNEY SUIT PREFERENCE SIGNALS 2.

We have looked at situation when McKenney signals are used on discards. The two examples below show other opportunities when you can tell partner which switch to make.

A Singleton in Dummy

Against NT contracts, if partner led an ace, you would show either **count**. (hi-lo = even), or **attitude** (high card = I like the lead.)

If, in a suit contract, partner leads an ace, and dummy goes down with a singleton of that suit, your partner obviously needs to know which suit to switch to, because declarer would ruff any continuation.

| | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|--|
| | Dummy | | |
| | ♠ KQ104 | | |
| | ♥ 9 | | |
| | ♦ K862 | You | |
| | ♣ K932 | | |
| ♠ J2 | | ♠ 97 | |
| ♥ AK743 | 4♠ by | ♥ J8652 | |
| ♦ J53 | south. | ♦ AQ10 | |
| ♣ J65 | | ♣ 874 | |
| | | ♠ A8653 | |
| | | ♥ Q10 | |
| | | ♦ 974 | |
| | | ♣ AQ10 | |

Give a McKenney signal.
Play the ♥8 asking for a diamond switch.
With no other entry, your partner should lead the ♦J.

Similarly, if partner leads an ace, and the king, queen & jack appear in dummy, a switch is again called for. The card you play on the ace should be a suit preference signal.

On Your Return

Partner leads ♥2 which you win with the ace. Every card counts, if you are to set this contract..

The ♥2 must be a singleton, mustn't it?

The ♥2 would promise an honour and you can see all the heart honours!

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|----------|--|
| | Dummy | | |
| | ♠ A8652 | | |
| | ♥ KQJ10 | | |
| | ♦ Q8 | You | |
| | ♣ A7 | | |
| ♠ 97 | | ♠ J | |
| ♥ 2 | 4♠ by | ♥ A9843 | |
| ♦ J7642 | south. | ♦ A953 | |
| ♣ QJ10 43 | | ♣ 962 | |
| | | ♠ KQ1043 | |
| | | ♥ 765 | |
| | | ♦ K10 | |
| | | ♣ K85 | |

Give a McKenney signal.
Return the ♥9 asking for a diamond switch, the higher of the two remaining suits. (Excluding the suit you are returning, and trumps.)

After ruffing your ♥9, partner plays a diamond back to you. After winning with the ♦A give your partner a second heart ruff, to set the contract!

Notes

1. In NT contracts, it is often correct to hold off from taking an ace. The 'hold up' can cut declarer's communications and give partner an opportunity to signal.
2. If, as is sometimes the case, you have no preference, try to play a middle card such as a 6 or 7.

McKENNEY SUIT PREFERENCE SIGNALS 3.

Dummy
 ♠ A7652
 ♥ K4
 ♦ KQJ5
 ♣ K4

You
 ♠ K83
 ♥ 9763
 ♦ 862
 ♣ AQ3

4♠
by south

Signal in the suit led

West, after much thinking, leads ♦A!
 It looks fairly obvious that a continuation of diamonds would be futile.
 Give your partner a McKenney signal.

Play ♦2 (asking for a club switch).
 Easy, but these next two are a little harder

| | | | |
|----|----|---|----|
| W | N | E | S |
| 1D | P | P | 1S |
| 2C | 3S | P | 4S |

Whoops! Sometimes we get it wrong.

♠ KQ74
 ♥ J8
 ♦ QJ6
 ♣ QJ86

♠ 862
 ♥ 97643
 ♦ 7
 ♣ 9732

♠ -
 ♥ AK52
 ♦ A5432
 ♣ K1054

4♠ by S.
Lead ♥A

♠ AJ10952
 ♥ Q2
 ♦ K1098
 ♣ A

Against a contract of 4♠ west led ♥A.
 East played ♥3, (a count signal showing an odd number of cards in the suit).
 West continued with ♥K. South played ♥9
 Now that is an unnecessarily high card!
 OK trust partner, it must be a McKenney suit preference signal asking for a diamond.
So west led 2♦ - and south smiled sweetly?!
 Even IF east had the ♦K he wouldn't ask for a diamond switch would he?

Signal in the suit you return.

♠ A8652
 ♥ 1076
 ♦ Q8
 ♣ 975

♠ J
 ♥ A9843
 ♦ 10953
 ♣ A62

♠ 97
 ♥ 2
 ♦ J7642
 ♣ QJ1043

4♠ by S.
Lead ♥2

♠ KQ1043
 ♥ KQJ5
 ♦ AK
 ♣ K8

(North has a difficult opening hand - whatever system you play.)

| | | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------------|---|---|
| N | E | S | W | ? |
| 2NT | = | Semi balanced | | |
| N | E | S | W | ? |
| 2S | = | Not 8 playing tricks (Acol) | | |
| N | E | S | W | ? |
| 2C | = | Game Force | | |
| N | E | S | W | ? |
| 1S | = | An opening hand | | |

♥2 LEAD
 After partner wins with the ♥A, the return of the ♥3 is ruffed by west.
 ♥3, a low card, asks for a return of the lower of the other two suits, **clubs**.
 ♣Q from west to the ace, and a second heart ruff sets the contract.

The discard of an honour, asks for that suit, not the higher of the remaining two suits.

Which card to play **WHEN PARTNER LEADS A SUIT 1.**

When partner leads, you will be 3rd to play (called '3rd in hand')
 Normally if partner has led a low card, you will play high, trying to win the trick.

| | |
|----|----|
| N | S |
| 1♦ | 1♠ |
| 3♠ | 4♠ |

| | | |
|------|---------|---------|
| | ♠ AK64 | |
| | ♥ K6 | |
| | ♦ KQJ93 | |
| | ♣ 105 | |
| West | | You |
| ? | | ♠ 932 |
| | | ♥ AJ5 |
| | | ♦ 84 |
| | | ♣ AJ862 |

After this auction, what do we already know about south's hand?

South has four or more spades
 South probably has 8/9+ HCPs

Therefore partner probably has 5/6/7 HCPs
 The shape of south's hand is not yet known but he doesn't have five hearts!

You can see two tricks! but E/W need four tricks to set the contract.

West could hold ♣K & ♣Q or ♣K & ♥Q or ♦A & ♥Q

Only the ♣K/♥Q or ♦A/♥Q or ♣K/♦A can set the contract, so play for west to hold these cards.

If west leads -

| | | |
|-------------|--|--|
| Any ♠ lead | Dummy obviously wins. | Play the ♠3* (Start of a trump peter.) |
| ♥4/3/2 lead | Partner has an honour! Probably ♥Q | |
| i) | If dummy plays the ♥K | Win with ♥A. Return the ♥J If this holds cash ♣A and play another club |
| ii) | If dummy plays low, If not, declarer will always win 1 trick. | Play ♥J (partner may have the queen) Playing the ace will give him two tricks! |
| ♥8/7 | From Q1087 or four rags or MUD | Play ♥J |
| ♥9 | Impossible. (It cannot be doubleton!) | Change your partner (987 is not a sequence). |
| ♥10 | West probably has 10983 or Q1097?) | Play low |
| ♥Q | Impossible. (It cannot be doubleton!) | Change your partner. |
| ♣K | From ♣K ♣Q. Can west hold ♥Q? | Play ♣2 (Count) |
| ♣Q | Has to be singleton or contract makes. South being 5-2-1-5. | Play ♣A. Return ♣8 |
| ♣4/3 | Must be from ♣K to set contract. ♣8 is an unnecessarily high card asking for the higher of the other two suits. | Play ♣A. Return ♣8 |
| ♦A | Play ♦8 Not a hi-lo signal. It is a suit preference signal asking for a heart switch. It should be obvious to west that declarer can immediately draw trumps. So unless the ♦8 is a singleton a diamond continuation is useless! If west switches to a low heart, you must assume it to be from Qxx and play ♥J. | |
| ♦6/5/2 | Partner surely cannot have underled ♦A!! Play ♦8 (Count) then discard partner. ♦J/7 Game over! if declarer has ♦A he will draw trumps and claim. Play ♦8 (Count) | |

TRUMP PETERS (Page 16)

Some players agree to play *reverse* count signals in the trump suit. With three small trumps, AND AN INTEREST IN RUFFING, you would play hi-lo. With 752, play 5, then 2!

Which card to play *WHEN PARTNER LEADS A SUIT 2.*

West (partner) leads ♥2

| | | |
|------------|-------------|----------|
| ♠ Q842 | | |
| ♥ QJ107 | | |
| ♦ Q98 | | |
| ♣ K9 | | |
| | You | |
| ♠ 65 | | ♠ A7 |
| ♥ <u>2</u> | 3♠ by south | ♥ A86543 |
| ♦ J7643 | | ♦ AK |
| ♣ J7542 | | ♣ 1063 |
| | | |
| ♠ KJ1093 | | |
| ♥ K9 | | |
| ♦ 1052 | | |
| ♣ AQ8 | | |

How does east know that it is a singleton*?
 East wins with the ♥A. 1 trick
 East cashes ♦K & ♦A (creating a void) 3 tricks
 East then returns ♥8** (Remember McKenney?)
 West ruffs 4 tricks
 West returns a diamond. East ruffs! 5 tricks
 East cashes ♠A. 6 tricks

* 6 in hand, 4 in dummy, 3 missing! 2♥ cannot be doubleton!

** Asking for the higher of the other two suits, or by agreement, playing king then ace shows a doubleton.

| | | |
|---------|-------------|--------|
| ♠ AJ64 | | |
| ♥ 1052 | | |
| ♦ 105 | | |
| ♣ KQJ7 | | |
| | You | |
| ♠ 972 | | ♠ 85 |
| ♥ KJ73 | 4♠ by south | ♥ A64 |
| ♦ 643 | | ♦ J872 |
| ♣ A64 | | ♣ 9732 |
| | | |
| ♠ KQ103 | | |
| ♥ Q98 | | |
| ♦ AKQ9 | | |
| ♣ 108 | | |

Signalling in defence is crucial to success. Count is the primary signal but sometimes it is irrelevant to tell partner how many cards you have in the suit led.

On this hand, partner has in desperation led ♣A. When dummy is faced it should be obvious to both defenders that a continuation of clubs would be futile. Therefore tell west which suit you want. Give a McKenney suit preference signal by playing ♣9.

This high card asks for the higher of the other two suits excluding trumps.

West switches to the ♥3 and because leading a low card promises an honour, you win and return another heart to set the contract.

| |
|------|
| xxx |
| 973 |
| AQxx |
| Axx |

If West held this hand, the heart switch would have been made with the ♥9 to say NO FURTHER INTEREST IN THIS SUIT!

| | |
|-----|-----|
| S | N |
| 2NT | 3NT |

West leads ♥3. (He has 4 - 6 HCPs and four hearts)
 Declarer will call for the ♥4 Play ♥10*
 If it holds, play ♥A and then ♥5

| | | |
|----------|--------------|---------|
| ♠ 52 | | |
| ♥ K72 | | |
| ♦ 652 | | |
| ♣ QJ1093 | | |
| | You | |
| ♠ 8764 | | ♠ 93 |
| ♥ J963 | 3NT by south | ♥ A105 |
| ♦ J98 | | ♦ 10742 |
| ♣ K6 | | ♣ A74 |

If declarer wins with ♥Q and switches to a low club to the ♣Q. You must NOTICE which card west plays because the card will be a count signal. It will tell you how many clubs declarer has.

With ♣Kx west will win! and return ♥J. We have to hope that declarer mis-guesses, and plays ♥K, because west's only other entry has been removed.

*It would be wrong to play the ♥A and return ♥10. This would give declarer two tricks if declarer has the ♥Q, but more importantly it would allow declarer to hold up for a second round, cutting your communications with west.

HOLDING OFF FOR PARTNER'S SIGNAL

It is obviously important to know when you are playing each of the signalling methods.

e.g. On declarer's leads

On partner's leads

On discards

Do you play count, suit preference or attitude signals?

As a partnership you should agree what you are playing and when!

Whatever you decide, there are times when you cannot signal early enough .

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>♠ J 10 3 ♥ J 10 3 ♦ A 6 ♣ J 10 9 8 5</p> | <div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #000; display: inline-block;"> 3NT by south </div> | <p>♠ K 8 4 ♥ K 8 4 ♦ K 10 7 5 2 ♣ K 6</p> |
| <p>♠ 9 7 2 ♥ A Q ♦ Q J 9 3 ♣ A Q 7 4</p> | | <p>♠ A Q 6 5 ♥ 9 7 6 5 2 ♦ 8 4 ♣ 3 2</p> |

West leads the ♣J. Won with the ♣K in dummy and ♦2 is led

Both defenders play low on the ♦Q from declarer. East gives count playing ♦8 (Even though the signal has no benefits on this occasion, east cannot read the diamond situation and another time it will be crucial.)

A 2nd diamond is led and west wins with ♦A

West knows that a switch is required, but which suit ? Hearts or spades?

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>♠ J 10 3 ♥ J 10 3 ♦ A 6 3 ♣ J 10 9 8</p> | <div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid #000; display: inline-block;"> 3NT by south </div> | <p>♠ K 8 4 ♥ K 8 4 ♦ K 10 7 5 2 ♣ K 6</p> |
| <p>♠ 9 7 2 ♥ A Q ♦ Q J 9 ♣ A Q 7 5 4</p> | | <p>♠ A Q 6 5 ♥ 9 7 6 5 2 ♦ 8 4 ♣ 3 2</p> |

There isn't a solution to the above problem, but it illustrates why west must hold up his ♦A until the third round on this hand.

The hold up will enable east to make the McKenney suit preference discard of the ♥9 asking for a spade.

If east took the ace on the first or second round the defence would be in the same guessing position as on the first hand!

PLAN THE DEFENCE

| | | | | |
|----|----|---|----|---|
| W | N | E | S | |
| 1♣ | 1♥ | P | 1♠ | - |
| P | 2♠ | P | 4♠ | |

Lead ♥8

How many defensive tricks can east count?

What could be the setting trick?

♠ 9 8 x x
♥ K 4
♦ A Q
♣ A Q J x x

♠ 10 x x
♥ 8 2
♦ x x x x
♣ x x x x

4♠
by
south

♠ x
♥ A Q 10 7 6 3
♦ 10 x x x
♣ K x

♠ A K Q J x
♥ J 9 5
♦ K x x
♣ 10 x

West cannot see where four defensive tricks can be made, but leads partner's suit to show the doubleton holding.

The lead gives east the clue to the winning defence.

After winning with the ♥Q, east cashes ♥A and returns ♥3 hoping that partner has a higher trump than dummy.

This low card (♥3) return asks west to switch to a club!

| | |
|-----|-----|
| S | N |
| 1NT | 3NT |

What does west lead?

Which card does east play?

Where are the missing honours?

Which card will south play at trick 1?

♠ Q 10 x
♥ 7 5 3
♦ K Q J x
♣ A Q x

♠ K x x
♥ K Q 10 9
♦ 10 x x
♣ 10 9 x

3NT
by
south

♠ A x x
♥ 8 6 2
♦ x x x
♣ x x x x

♠ J 9 x x
♥ A J 4
♦ A x x
♣ K J x

Declarer's low heart is an attempt to execute a Bath Coup. West's switch, on east's signal, foiled the plot!

When a king is led against NTs partner must unblock any honour held. If no honour is held they must show count.

As long as west switches at trick 2, declarer can never make the contract!

When declarer plays the spades: If they are led from south's hand west follows guideline of second hand low

If a spade is led from dummy, east plays high in order to lead hearts back to partner while he still has an entry!

DEFENCE IN MID GAME - ATTITUDE LEADS

Switch please

It is not always possible to find exactly the right opening lead, particularly if the bidding has given very little away.

| | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| S | W | N | E |
| 1♠ | - | 2♣ | - |
| 2NT | - | 3NT | |

It would be normal to lead 4th highest ♦4
 East plays ♦9 won by South with ♦J.
 Declarer now plays ♣A and then ♣4 towards ♣Q
 You win with the ♣K. Now what?
 Declarer must have ace and king of diamonds.
 (Partner played his highest diamond.)
 Three diamonds, ace of clubs, and three more on table
 plus two top spades will give south the contract.

So your only chance is a heart switch.
 But which heart do you lead? Partner **may** think you
 want your original lead of diamonds returned.

In mid game use attitude leads.
 The lower the card I lead the more I want the suit
 returning!
 Lead ♥3 and partner will return hearts!

If you had led ♥8 partner would win and return your
 first suit.

Dummy

♠ A K
 ♥ 10 7 4
 ♦ 7 6 5
 ♣ Q J 10 5 2

♠ 9 2
 ♥ K Q 8 3
 ♦ Q 10 8 4 3
 ♣ K 8

3NT
 by
 south

♠ A K
 ♥ 10 7 4
 ♦ 7 6 5
 ♣ Q J 10 5 2

♠ 9 2
 ♥ K Q 8 3
 ♦ Q 10 8 4 3
 ♣ K 8

FULL
 HAND

♠ J 8 7 4
 ♥ A 6 2
 ♦ 9 2
 ♣ 9 7 6 3

♠ Q 10 6 5 3
 ♥ J 9 5
 ♦ A K J
 ♣ A 4

Return my suit please

♠ A K
 ♥ 10 7 4
 ♦ 7 6 5
 ♣ Q J 10 5 2

♠ 9 2
 ♥ 9 8 5 3
 ♦ A Q 10 4 3
 ♣ K 8

3NT
 by
 south

♠ J 8 7 4
 ♥ A 6 2
 ♦ 9 2
 ♣ 9 7 6 3

♠ Q 10 6 5 3
 ♥ K Q J
 ♦ K J 3
 ♣ A 4

On this hand, the auction, and north & east's hands are identical.
 So is the lead, and south again wins with the ♦J.
 Declarer, south, does the same as before ♣A, and low to ♣Q.
 Again, you win with the ♣K.
 What now?

This time you desperately need to get into partner's hand for a diamond
 continuation. Again it has to be hearts.
 If you carelessly lead the ♥3 partner will do what he did last time and
 return a heart. Your ♥3 would promise an honour!

You must lead the ♥9, expressing no interest in this suit.
 Partner will now return your diamonds!

SURROUND LEADS

Surround leads are actually SWITCHES in mid game when dummy has revealed a weakish suit, and your cards on the right of dummy surround the highest card. In these examples east is on lead.

| | | | |
|---|---|----------------|--|
| <p>10 6 5</p> <p>8 7 2</p> <p>A Q 3</p> | <div style="background-color: #cccccc; width: 20px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> | <p>K J 9 4</p> | <p>Try to imagine dummy's 10 is in your hand. (K J 10 9 4)</p> <p>What would you lead? Yes the jack.</p> <p>This is the simple principle of surround leads.</p> <p>You have dummy's 10 surrounded and you have a higher honour.</p> <p>By leading the jack declarer only makes ace and queen.</p> <p>Any other lead can be ducked around to the 10, for three tricks!</p> |
|---|---|----------------|--|

| | | | |
|--|---|-----------------|--|
| <p>J 7 2</p> <p>8 6 3</p> <p>K 9 4</p> | <div style="background-color: #cccccc; width: 20px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> | <p>A Q 10 5</p> | <p>Imagine that you hold A Q J 10 5. What would you lead?</p> <p>Lead the queen.</p> <p>Declarer only makes one trick.</p> <p>Two on any other lead.</p> |
|--|---|-----------------|--|

| | | | |
|---|---|----------------|---|
| <p>10 6 5</p> <p>A 8 7</p> <p>Q 3 2</p> | <div style="background-color: #cccccc; width: 20px; height: 20px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> | <p>K J 9 4</p> | <p>Imagine you hold K J 10 9 4. What would you lead?</p> <p>Lead the jack.</p> <p>Declarer cannot make a trick on this layout.</p> <p>If declarer covers J - Q - A - 5, we now have K-9 over dummy's 10-6 or if declarer ducks J - 2 - 7 - 5, we now have the remaining tricks.</p> |
|---|---|----------------|---|

Here you see how this works on a full hand!

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|----|------|----|---|------|-------|------|----|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>♠ K</p> <p>♥ A 9 3 2</p> <p>♦ 10 6 4</p> <p>♣ A K 10 9 8</p> | <p>♠ A Q J 4 3 2</p> <p>♥ J 4</p> <p>♦ K J 9</p> <p>♣ 7 5</p> | <p>♠ 10 9</p> <p>♥ K Q 8 7 6</p> <p>♦ Q 8 5</p> <p>♣ Q 6 3</p> | <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">E</td> <td style="width: 25%;">S</td> <td style="width: 25%;">W</td> <td style="width: 25%;">N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1♠</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>2♠</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥/4♥</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> </table> <p>♠7 lead</p> <p>Won by east's ♠A.</p> <p>A switch to diamonds seems best, but which one?</p> <p>Imagine that you have dummies ♦10 -</p> <p>That would give you an internal sequence - ♦KJ109</p> <p>Lead ♦J (top of internal sequence).</p> <p>However south plays,</p> <p>he is now bound to lose three diamond tricks.</p> <p>Any other return and the contract makes.</p> <p>If east leads ♦9 declarer can duck in hand.</p> <p>This would force west to play ♦A</p> <p>and eventually south's ♦Q would win a trick.</p> <p>On a spade, heart or club return, diamonds would be thrown on club winners after trumps have been drawn.)</p> | E | S | W | N | 1♠ | Pass | 2♠ | X | Pass | 3♥/4♥ | Pass | 4♥ |
| E | S | W | N | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1♠ | Pass | 2♠ | X | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pass | 3♥/4♥ | Pass | 4♥ | | | | | | | | | | | | |

THE FORCING DEFENCE 1.

♠ 9852
♥ 4
♦ AKQ8
♣ 7432

Question 1.

What would you lead after this bidding ?

| | | |
|----|---|----|
| N | S | |
| - | | 1♠ |
| 2♦ | | 3♥ |
| 3♠ | | 4♠ |

643

9852 7
AKQJ10

Question 2.

If this were the trump suit, for N/S, how many tricks would you expect west to make in defence?

Do you remember how, as declarer, you were shown the futility of ruffing in the long hand? As defender have you ever said "There was no point in leading that suit because declarer was ruffing them"?

Suppose by leading your long suit, you **could** force declarer to ruff twice in south, wouldn't that establish a trump trick for you? This is the principle of the forcing defence and it offers you another one liner.

"With trump length, lead your strength"

♠ 875
♦ 62
♠ A432 ♠ 6
♦ KQJ93 ♦ A8754
♠ KQJ109
♦ 10

On this hand suppose west leads ♦K and continues, forcing south to ruff once. From his four remaining trumps, south leads the ♠K. West holds off. South leads ♠Q. Again west holds off. If south plays another trump, west will win with the ace and continue diamonds to draw south's last trump. West still has a trump and **winning Diamonds**.

If you led your singleton heart in the 1st example, the good news is that partner has the ace and he gives you a ruff. The bad news is that the contract makes.

Forcing declarer to ruff, often works much better. After ♦A lead and a continuation, declarer must ruff. He will try to draw trumps, and switch to hearts after two rounds. East will win and return a third diamond.

On the next heart, west can ruff and return the last diamond establishing his last trump to set the contract with ♦A, ♥A, and two trump tricks.

If declarer draws trumps, east wins with ♥A and sets the contract with partner's three diamond winners.

| | | |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| | ♠ 6 4 3 | |
| | ♥ Q J 5 | |
| | ♦ 9 6 3 2 | |
| | ♣ A K J | |
| ♠ 9 8 5 2 | | ♠ 7 |
| ♥ 4 | 4♠ by | ♥ A 8 6 3 2 |
| ♦ A K Q 8 | south | ♦ 10 7 5 4 |
| ♣ 7 4 3 2 | | ♣ 10 9 6 |
| | ♠ A K Q J 10 | |
| | ♥ K 10 9 7 | |
| | ♦ J | |
| | ♣ Q 8 5 | |

THE FORCING DEFENCE 2.

| N | E | S | W |
|-----|---|----|----|
| - | - | 1♠ | 2♦ |
| 2♠* | - | 4♠ | - |

South leads ♦K

| | | |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| ♠ Q 8 6 | | ♠ 5 |
| ♥ J 4 3 | | ♥ 10 9 6 |
| ♦ 7 6 4 2 | | ♦ A 10 |
| ♣ K Q J | | ♣ 9 7 6 5 4 3 2 |
| ♠ A 4 3 2 | 4♠ by south | ♠ K J 10 9 7 |
| ♥ 7 5 | | ♥ A K Q 8 2 |
| ♦ K Q J 9 8 | | ♦ 5 3 |
| ♣ 10 8 | | ♣ A |

Note also the different defensive strategies when trumps break 4 -1 (the forcing defence) or 3-2 (playing for a ruff.)

On the ♦K lead east must overtake and return the suit. East ruffs the third diamond. Over-ruffed by south who now plays a trump.

West wins ♠A, and returns another diamond. After ruffing again declarer is down to two trumps while south still has three!

Declarer is at least one off.

NOTES :

- 1.) *North has few options after south's overcall.
- 2.) A club lead would give declarer eleven tricks.
- 3.) If east fails to overtake with ♦A, declarer makes because she is still in control of trumps.
- 4.) 4♥ fails on a different defence. The ♦K lead is overtaken with the ace and a spade returned. The spade return is ruffed.

♦Q sets the contract.

| W | N | E | S |
|---|----|----|----|
| - | 1♣ | 1♥ | 1♠ |
| - | 2♠ | - | 4♠ |

West leads ♥2

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| ♠ Q 7 6 | | ♠ A 4 3 2 |
| ♥ Q 10 5 | | ♥ A J 9 6 3 |
| ♦ K Q | | ♦ J 6 |
| ♣ K Q J 8 6 | | ♣ 7 3 |
| ♠ 5 | 4♠ by south | ♠ K J 10 9 8 |
| ♥ K 4 2 | | ♥ 8 7 |
| ♦ 9 8 7 5 4 2 | | ♦ A 10 3 |
| ♣ 9 5 4 | | ♣ A 10 2 |

The low heart suggests an honour or a singleton.

It is more likely to be from an honour, unless east made a simple overcall with seven hearts.

East plays the ♥9, as the only missing honour is the king, and then low back to the king.

The third heart is ruffed. Declarer plays trumps which east should duck for two rounds.

If declarer continues, east will win and play a fourth heart, to set the contract.

If declarer abandons the trumps after two rounds to tackle clubs he will be one off when east ruffs the third club.

THINKING IN DEFENCE

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| | ♠ K Q J |
| | ♥ J x |
| You | ♦ K Q x x x x |
| | ♣ x x |
| ♠ x x x x | 3NT by south |
| ♥ A K 10 x x | |
| ♦ x | |
| ♣ K x x x | |

| | | | | |
|--|-----|----|----|---|
| | S | W | N | E |
| | 1NT | 2♥ | 3♦ | - |
| | 3NT | - | - | - |

You, west, lead A♥. What next?
Most defenders continued with the ♥K and another heart, presumably hoping to get in with the ♣K, to make their remaining two hearts

A little thought before playing the third heart would show that this cannot work.

South is likely to hold Q x x in hearts.
East has 4, 5, or 6 points.

Unless south has all three aces and the ♥Q for a maximum 14 point count,
East must hold one of the aces.

If east held either the ♦A or the ♠A then the ♣A must be with south and the contract is cold! On a heart continuation, or spade switch, south, after knocking out the missing ace, will rise with the the ♣A for ten tricks! (On the actual lie of the cards, it would be eleven tricks.)

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|------------|------------|
| | ♠ K Q J | | ♠ x x x |
| | ♥ J x | | ♥ x x x |
| | ♦ K Q x x x x | | ♦ x x x |
| | ♣ x x | | ♣ A J 10 x |
| ♠ x x x | 3NT by south | ♠ x x x | ♠ x x x |
| ♥ A K 10 x x | | ♥ x x x | ♥ x x x |
| ♦ x | | ♦ x x x | ♦ J x x |
| ♣ K x x x | | ♣ A J 10 x | ♣ Q J |
| | ♠ A x x x | ♠ A x x x | |
| | ♥ Q x x | ♥ Q x x | |
| | ♦ A J x | ♦ A x x | |
| | ♣ Q x x | | |

The only play at trick three is a low club, playing your partner for the ♣A.
It cannot cost. If declarer has ♣A then he will take the inevitable ten tricks, but how else will you score +100 for 3NT two down?

You are west defending 3NT by south

You lead the ♣4, (4th highest).
Declarer ducks east's ♣Q (Correct play)
Partner returns ♣8 and declarer plays ♣K
What do you play?

I hope you didn't take this trick with your ♣A.

The only hope for the defence is that east has a third club *and an entry*. How else will you get in to make your two remaining club winners?

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|
| | ♠ A Q J 9 2 | | ♠ K 7 6 |
| | ♥ 10 5 2 | | ♥ K 9 4 |
| | ♦ A 3 2 | | ♦ 10 9 6 5 |
| | ♣ 7 2 | | ♣ Q 8 6 |
| You | 3NT by south | ♠ 8 3 | |
| ♠ 10 5 4 | | ♥ A Q 6 3 | |
| ♥ J 8 7 | | ♦ K Q 8 7 | |
| ♦ J 4 | | ♣ K J 5 | |
| ♣ A 10 9 4 3 | | | |

DUCKING IN 4TH POSITION

West leads a ♠7 to east's ace
 East returns the 4♠ (Highest from 4-3)
 What should west play?

♠ Q 6 2
 ♥ K Q 8 4
 ♦ A K 9 8
 ♣ J 3

It looks obvious that you will win with the ♠K
 and clear the suit, but - - -

♠ K 10 9 7 5
 ♥ 9 5
 ♦ 10 5 4 2
 ♣ 9 8

3NT by
 south

♠ A 4 3
 ♥ A J 6 3
 ♦ J 3
 ♣ Q 7 6 5

How will you ever get back in to cash your
 winning spades?

♠ J 8
 ♥ 10 7 2
 ♦ Q 7 6
 ♣ A K 10 4 2

You must duck the spade return and hope that
 your partner can get in again!

If partner only had two spades your play would
 sacrifice a trick, but you should risk that to give
 yourself the best chance of setting the contract.



♠ A 3
 ♥ A J 6 3
 ♦ J 6 3
 ♣ Q 7 6 5

♠ J 8 4
 ♥ 10 7 2
 ♦ Q 7
 ♣ A K 10 4 2

3NT Partner leads ♠5
 Declarer plays low and you win with ♠K
 You return ♠9. Won by declarer with ♠Q
 West plays ♠8 suggesting a heart switch.
 Declarer plays a club to the jack.

♠ A 3 2
 ♥ 5 2
 ♦ 6 4
 ♣ K J 10 8 4 3

Do you win with the ♣Q?
 You have two stops so it looks safe doesn't it?

♠ J 8 7 5 4
 ♥ K 9 3
 ♦ J 10 3
 ♣ 9 6

3NT by
 south

♠ K 9
 ♥ 10 7 6 4
 ♦ 9 8 7 5
 ♣ A Q 5

The problem is you don't have another spade for
 partner. As requested, you switch to a heart.

Declarer wins and plays another club to the jack.
 Oh dear he still has the ♠A.

♠ Q 10 6
 ♥ A Q J 8
 ♦ A K Q 2
 ♣ 7 2

If you had ducked the ♣J initially declarer cannot
 establish the club suit.

We hope that the 10 units, delivered over the last five years have given you the knowledge to compete at club level. Success in bridge requires the appropriate application of the techniques set out in these booklets. You need to play regularly in duplicate bridge events, recognise errors, discuss your system with partner and check back to these booklets for revision. You will meet more experienced club players using other gadgets such as Weak Twos, Puppet Stayman, etc. WHEN you feel ready to move on, we can explore these innovations and have more fun with this endlessly fascinating game.