



St Annes Bridge Club

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Standard leads at no trumps

Holding	Lead	Comment
A K Q	A	promises the king
K Q J K Q 10	K	promises the queen, denies the ace
Q J 10 Q J 9	Q	promises the jack, denies the king
J 10 9 J 10 8	J	promises the 10, denies the queen

Standard leads at no trumps

Holding	Lead	Comment
A Q J	Q	still promising the J, denying the K
A J 10	J	still promising the 10, denying the Q
K J 10		
A 10 9		
K 10 9	10	still promising the 9 denying the J
Q 10 9		

Known as leading from *Interior Sequence*

Standard leads at no trumps

Holding	Lead	Comment
H x x (x) x	4 th highest	When you cannot lead from a sequence
H H x (x)	4 th highest	
x x x x	2 nd highest	play the 4 th highest next time
x x x	2 nd highest	play the highest next (MUD)
x x	highest	lead the highest card from a doubleton

Standard leads in trumps

Leading from honours against a trump contract is different.

In particular, do not lead a low card from a suit that includes the ace. If you do, when you come to try to take a trick later on with your ace it might be ruffed (of course, this could not happen at no trumps).

Against a trump contract:

AKx(x)(x) lead the ace

KQx(x)(x) lead the king

Axx(x)(x) lead another suit (but if you must lead this suit, lead the ace)

Defenders' play of the cards

Returning partner's suit

You may win the first trick, or you may gain the lead later on. Unless you have a good reason not to, it is usually right to return partner's lead.

When leading back, lead the higher of two remaining cards, or your original fourth highest if you held a long suit.

This should help partner to calculate how many cards declarer holds in the suit, which may be critical.

Returning Partners Suit (particularly in NT)

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

4 led. East wins the ace, returns the 7. West knows that South has 4 cards in the suit and the queen will not fall under the king.

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

This time, when East wins the ace, he returns the 2. West knows that after he wins the J, his K will then fall South's Q

Second hand plays low (generally!)

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

When South (declarer) leads a small card, West must play low. If he plays the ace, South will make two tricks in the suit.

	Q 7	
K 6 3		
	2 led	

However, use common sense. If this is a side suit in a trump contract, play the king else it may not take a trick at all.

Cover an Honour with an Honour

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

The queen is led. If East fails to cover with his king, South makes all 4 tricks. By covering, West's 9 will win the fourth trick.

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

When the queen is led, East should not cover. Since South can only finesse once more. The king will not be caught.

Lead through strength and up to weakness

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

It would be foolish for East to lead this suit. Left to himself, declarer may not finesse in the suit at all.

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

Now a lead of the suit by East (up to the weakness in dummy) is perfectly satisfactory. West, of course, would not return the lead

Third hand plays high

	9 5 4	
2 led		K J 3

Play the king. Declarer may have the queen. However, with touching honours, play the lower to help partner.

Lead the higher of touching honours, follow suit with the lower.

This can often help partner to work out what declarer holds in the suit.

Following Suit, play lowest of a sequence

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

Against no trumps West leads the 4. East must rise with the Jack. If Declarer takes the trick he needs to use his Ace. West now knows that East has the Queen (declarer would have played the Queen rather than his Ace). If East played his Queen West would not know where the Jack is.

HAND 1

North

♠ A Q J 5 2

♥ 9 8 3

♦ K 5

♣ A K 6

1 S

4 S

West

♠ 3

♥ A 6 5 2

♦ J 9 4 2

♣ J 10 8 7

pass

pass

East

♠ K 7 6

♥ Q J 10

♦ 10 8 3

♣ 9 5 4 3

pass

pass

South

♠ 10 9 8 4

♥ K 7 4

♦ A Q 7 6

♣ Q 2

3 S

pass

HAND 2

North



A

pass



A 6 5 4 3

pass



9 2



10 9 8 7 4

East



K Q J 10 9



10 8 7 2



A K



A Q

West



7 4 3 2



K Q J



Q 10 7 4



K 6

3 S

pass

South



8 6 5



9



J 8 6 5 3

pass



J 5 3 2

pass

1 S

4 S

HAND 3

North

♠ Q 10 6 3

♥ Q J 10

♦ K J

♣ Q 10 8 4

3 S

pass

West

♠ 7

♥ A K 4 3 2

♦ 8 4 3 2

♣ 9 7 6

pass

pass

East

♠ 9 5 4

♥ 9 5

♦ A 7 6 5

♣ J 5 3 2

pass

pass

South

♠ A K J 8 2

♥ 8 7 6

♦ Q 10 9

♣ A K

1 S

4 S

HAND 4

North

♠ K Q J
♥ A J 10 9
♦ J 9 8 7 5
♣ 2

pass

pass

pass

West

♠ A 7 6 5 4 2
♥ K Q 3
♦ 6 2
♣ K 6

1 S

2 S

pass

East

♠ 10 9 8
♥ 8
♦ A K 4 3
♣ A 7 5 4 3

2 C

4 S

South

♠ 3
♥ 7 6 5 4 2
♦ Q 10
♣ Q J 10 9 8

pass

pass

HAND 5

North

♠ 8 7 6 5

♥ K J 10

♦ A Q 5

♣ A Q 5

1 S

4 S

West

♠ J 10

♥ 4 3 2

♦ 6 4 3 2

♣ 6 4 3 2

pass

pass

East

♠ 4 3 2

♥ A Q 9 8

♦ K 8 7

♣ K 8 7

pass

pass

South

♠ A K Q 9

♥ 7 6 5

♦ J 10 9

♣ J 10 9

3 S

pass

Homework

- Memorise Standard Leads pg 83
- Quiz Pg 89
- Read Pgs 96-99