

## STANDARD LEADS AGAINST NO TRUMP AND SUIT CONTRACTS

The following shows the standard leads which are used by the majority of bridge players. However, it is only a guide and you should always pay close attention to the bidding.

Books have been written on opening leads and there is a wealth of information on the Internet. Peirs has done a more detailed guide, so if you talk to him nicely he might give you a copy!

### Against Notrumps:

*In order of preference from your longest suit:*

- 1) Top of a sequence of 3 or more eg AKQ4, KQJ5, QJ106 or if the 3<sup>rd</sup> card is missing by one spot (for example, QJ92) then this is still regarded as a sequence
- 2) 4<sup>th</sup> highest eg from A762 lead the 2.

### Against a suit contract(usually more difficult than against Notrumps):

- 1) Lead A from AK(xx), K from KQ(xx) as above but do not lead from a suit containing an Ace e.g with A762 don't lead the 2 – choose another suit.
- 2) Lead a singleton or doubleton which is not the trump suit(best not to lead a suit bid by the opponents)
- 3) Lead 4<sup>th</sup> highest from your longest suit

Suit	Lead against a No Trump contract	Comments	Lead against a suit contract	Comments
J9753	5	4 <sup>th</sup> highest	5	4 <sup>th</sup> highest
QJ973	Q	Top of Sequence	Q	Top of Sequence
AK752	5		A	
KJ8643	6		6	
Q742	2		2	
A872	2		Don't!	
QJ8732	7		Q	
A2	A	Partner's suit	A	Partner's suit
Q32	2	Partner's suit	2	Partner's suit
KJ1032	J	Top of internal sequence	J	Top of internal sequence
AJ1032	J		J	

Leads which can confuse partner:

- 1) 2<sup>nd</sup> highest from a poor suit. Can be confused with 4<sup>th</sup> highest or doubleton
- 2) Middle Up Down (MUD) – as above
- 3) With KQ doubleton leading the Q. Partner will place the K with Declarer and the J with you.

So, if you have a choice, pick the one which is less likely to frazzle partner's brain.