

Cincinnati Flying Pig Regional
April/May 2009



Cincinnati Bridge Association
District 11, ACBL

Two Heads are Better than One ... On Defense

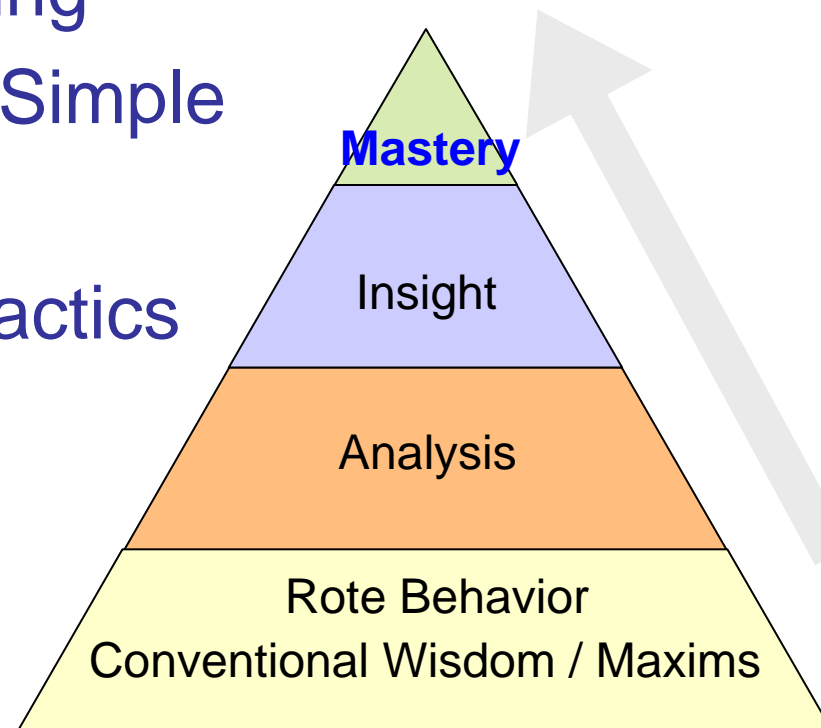




Let's Talk Defense...

Objective: Common approach shared with partner applied consistently creates trust and superior results.

- Analysis & Planning
- Opening Leads / Simple
- Communication
- Inferences and Tactics





Think → Plan → Play

Checklist for Planning your Attack:

[] *What did the auction tell us? What did partner say/not say?
What does our hand tell us?*

Power, Distribution, Tricks

[] *Should we attack or should declarer work for their tricks?*

- Passive – Opponents have bid tentatively / weak for their level.
- Active – We are in a race and must attack now.

[] *What's our goal (IMPs or Match Points?)*

- Plan – Where are our tricks and how do we get them?
- Risks - What risks are there for each suit? What suit to lead, and what card is best?

**“There is no such thing as a blind opening lead,
just deaf opening leaders.” - Terence Reese**





Defensive Carding

LEADS (circle card led, if not in bold)				DEFENSIVE CARDING			
versus Suits		versus Notrump		vs SUITS		vs NT	
X X	x x x x	X X	x x x x	Standard:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
x x X	x x x X x	X x x	x x x X x	Except	<input type="checkbox"/>		
A K x	T 9 x	A K J x	A Q J x	Upside-Down:			
K Q x	K J T x	A J T 9	A T 9 x	count	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Q J x	K T 9 x	K Q J x	K Q T 9	attitude	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
J T 9	Q T 9 x	Q J T x	Q T 9 x	FIRST DISCARD			
K Q T 9		J T 9 x	T 9 x x	Lavinthal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
LENGTH LEADS:				Odd/Even	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4th Best		vs SUITS	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3rd/5th Best		vs SUITS	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Attitude vs NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER CARDING			
Primary signal to partner's leads				Smith Echo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Attitude	<input type="checkbox"/>	Count	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trump Suit Pref.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Suit preference	<input type="checkbox"/>			Foster Echo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
SPECIAL CARDING				<input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE ASK			

Experts consider defense the hardest part of our game:

- Act 1st w/less information
- Control 1 hand

ACBL Convention Card
17.6% for defensive carding

Defense is at least 50% of the Game.

Improving defensive effectiveness is 1st priority for most bridge players.





Traditional

- Lead top from a power sequence.
- Lead Length 4th best - *Rule of 11*
- Lead Hi-low from doubleton (to get a ruff)
- Lead the unbid suit
- Attitude to partner's lead
- How to lead from AK
- How to lead from xxx

LEADS (circle card led, if not in bold)

versus Suits		versus Notrump	
X X	X X X X	X X	X X X X
X X X	X X X X X	X X X	X X X X X
A K x	T 9 x	A K J x	A Q J x
K Q x	K J T x	A J T 9	A T 9 x
Q J x	K T 9 x	K Q J x	K Q T 9
J T 9	Q T 9 x	Q J T x	Q T 9 x
K Q T 9		J T 9 x	T 9 x x

LENGTH LEADS:

4th Best	vs SUITS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	vs NT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3rd/5th Best	vs SUITS	<input type="checkbox"/>	vs NT	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Attitude vs NT	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Primary signal to partner's leads

Attitude Count Suit preference

SPECIAL CARDING

DEFENSIVE CARDING

Standard: vs SUITS vs NT

 Except

Upside-Down:
 count
 attitude

FIRST DISCARD

Lavinthal
 Odd/Even

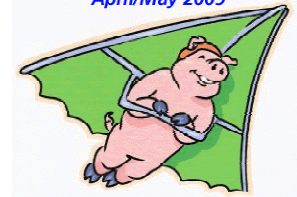
OTHER CARDING

Smith Echo
 Trump Suit Pref.
 Foster Echo

PLEASE ASK



Bridge World Standard



Carding agreements go beyond what we say on the convention card!

LEADS (circle card led, if not in bold)				DEFENSIVE CARDING			
versus Suits		versus Notrump		vs SUITS		vs NT	
X X	x x x x	X X	X X x x	Standard:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
x x X	x x x x x	x x x	x X x x x	Except	<input type="checkbox"/>		
A K x	T 9 x	A K J x	A Q J x	Upside-Down:			
K Q x	K J T x	A J T 9	A T 9 x	count	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Q J x	K T 9 x	K Q J x	K Q T 9	attitude	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
J T 9	Q T 9 x	Q J T x	Q T 9 x	FIRST DISCARD			
K Q T 9	J T 9 x	T 9 x x		Lavinthal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
LENGTH LEADS:				Odd/Even	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4th Best	vs SUITS	<input type="checkbox"/>	vs NT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3rd/5th Best	vs SUITS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	vs NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
COPA	Attitude	vs NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER CARDING			
Primary signal to partner's leads				Smith Echo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Attitude	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Count	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trump Suit Pref.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
		Suit preference	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foster Echo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
SPECIAL CARDING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				PLEASE ASK			

Lead top from a power sequence.

Lead Length

- Suits: 3rd or 5th best - *Rule of 10/12*

- NT: 4th Best *Rule of 11*

Lead Hi-low from doubleton (to get a ruff)

Lead the unbid suit

Attitude to partner's lead

A from AK

Low from xxx

Obvious switch

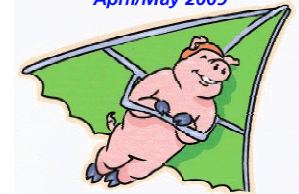
Suit Preference when obvious

(High = high, low = low)

Upside down trump count

Trump Suit Pref when obvious.





Keep it Simple

LEADS (circle card led, if not in bold)		DEFENSIVE CARDING	
versus Suits		vs SUITS vs NT	
<i>Limited</i> X X X	X X X X	X X	X X X X
X X X	X X X X X	X X X	X X X X X
A K X	T 9 X	A K J X	A Q J X
K Q X	K J T X	A J T 9	A T 9 X
Q J X	K T 9 X	K Q J X	K Q T 9
J T 9	Q T 9 X	Q J T X	Q T 9 X
K Q T 9		J T 9 X	T 9 X X

LENGTH LEADS:

4th Best vs SUITS vs NT

3rd/5th Best vs SUITS vs NT

Attitude vs NT

Primary signal to partner's leads

Attitude Count Suit preference

SPECIAL CARDING PLEASE ASK

Opening Lead A, Q, ask Attitude; K ask Count

DEFENSIVE CARDING

Standard: vs SUITS vs NT

Except

Present count

Upside-Down:

count

attitude

FIRST DISCARD

Lavinthal

Odd/Even

OTHER CARDING

Smith Echo

Trump Suit Pref.

Foster Echo

Opener Asks

Show Strength and Length (Attitude)

Big cards > small cards

Want both Attitude & Count

easy → NT = Suits

Lead Partner's Suit (2 exceptions)

Lead a singleton (2 exceptions)

A, Q, ask Attitude; K ask Count

Attitude Spot Card Leads from length (4th best)

Low → A, K, or Q

High → 2nd highest or top of sequence

If not strength then length

If not length then passive 3 card suit / trump

Find partner's length/strength

Avoid giving trick to declarer

Avoid under leading an Ace

Avoid leads from 2 cards in their / unbid suit(s).

Must have AQx in trumps to lead unbid doubleton!!!

Partner must have an entry (How do you know???)

Avoid leading a singleton trump

Top then Bottom of 3+ Honor sequence.

Top of equals honor discards (and following suit)

1st Attitude; 2nd Count, except when Suit Preference

Alarm Bell Discards





When Dummy Hits

- Test your plan against the new information
- Declarer's approach says...
- Partner's choices says...
- Partner's carding says...
- Stay fluid. Reassess power, shape & tricks.
- Communicate, communicate, communicate...





Counting: The 3 – 1 Rule

- The 4 suits in any hand have an odd or even number of cards.
- Since we start with 13 cards we can have either 3 odd/1 even or 3 even/1 odd suits.
- **Important:** all 4 hands at the table will also split 3-1 either ODD or EVEN dominant.
- With dummy known you will know which patterns are likely for declarer by watching partner's count signals.

	<u>3 EVEN</u>	<u>3 ODD</u>
Top 10 handle 88% of hands!	4432	5332
	5422	5431
	6322	4333
	6421	6331
	4441	5521
Next 9 add 11% more...	6430	7321
	5440	5530
	6520	6511
	7222	7411
	7420	

Shape	Share of Hands	Cumulative Share
4432	21.55%	21.55%
5332	15.52%	37.07%
5431	12.93%	50.00%
5422	10.58%	60.58%
4333	10.54%	71.11%
6322	5.64%	76.76%
6421	4.70%	81.46%
6331	3.45%	84.91%
5521	3.17%	88.08%
4441	2.99%	91.07%
7321	1.88%	92.96%
6430	1.33%	94.28%
5440	1.24%	95.52%
5530	0.90%	96.42%
6511	0.71%	97.13%
6520	0.65%	97.78%
7222	0.51%	98.29%
7411	0.39%	98.68%
7420	0.36%	99.04%





Common Inferences

Inferences are free - they start out worth what you paid for them, then they start working.

If partner doesn't lead my suit, s/he is void, holds the Ace of my suit with declarer known to hold a major stopper, wants an early ruff elsewhere, is a genius, ... *or is looking for a new partner.*

If partner under leads a side Ace on opening lead, s/he is looking for a 2nd round ruff, *or a new partner.*

If partner overcalls and I hold two honors (A, K, Q) in that suit, partner has an opening hand with outside honor strength in 1 or more suits.

Why lead a singleton trump? Better to hope partner has trump length & start the forcing defense.

If the rule of 11 is wrong, partner led from 3.....or 1

If partner leads x, s/he doesn't have the Ace in that suit (except in trumps).

If partner leads their suit and must be short, assume a singleton. If xx, then know partner has AQx of trump or better. If xxx then assume partner has assets in the remaining 2 suits. If partner leads a high x partner has either 1 or 3+, almost never 2.

If partner leads a singleton, assume trumps are poor or not longer than 3 (they might be Jxxx). Trump length means forcing declarer.





Common Inferences II

If partner leads a trump x, partner doesn't have a singleton trump (and partner expects opponent's hand opposite the trump length to be short in a side suit).

If partner is known to have a singleton and doesn't lead it, then partner has natural trump tricks or wants a forcing defense.

If partner has strength & makes a passive opening lead, consider returning the other suit(s).

Leading after Stayman, why lead a club if partner didn't double that suit?

Leading after Jacoby Transfer – why lead the transfer suit if partner didn't double?

After their minor suit opening & low level response, if partner could have bid a 1 level major and didn't, why lead one?

If you have length, 1 honor and no outside entries, why lead that suit?
What might partner have?

If opponents are short in a suit, why lead it?

If partner leads back a trump in the face of dummy's semi-solid side suit, assume s/he controls that suit!





Common Inferences III

If partner leads back the 4th suit in the face of dummy's semi-solid side suit, assume partner can't stop dummy's suit.

If partner discards an obvious winner eliminating a switch option (ALARM BELL) partner wants something no signal can ask for (continuation for an uppercut, switch to length for a ruff).

If partner discards an honor in a suit they are known to hold, s/he denies a higher honor – partner has other ways of showing suit preference.

With trump length and control, choose a forcing attack. Cause declarer to ruff in the LONG hand. Refuse to shorten your trumps prematurely.

With outside shortness in dummy why not attack trumps (Declarer has trump length)? Cut short those short hand ruffs.

Why lead declarer's known long suit unless you can trump trick 2.

Why lead dummy's known long suit unless partner has an entry elsewhere? Or partner can ruff? Or you can ruff the 2nd round and have enough trump controls to find partner's entry?





BW Master Solver's Club

MP / EW Vul	S	W	N	E
South <i>(Dec 08 p60)</i>		P	P	IN
♠ KQ86				
♥ 98				
♦ KQ5				
♣ KQ54				





BW Master Solver's Club

MP / EW Vul	S	W	N	E
South (Dec 08 p60)		P	P	IN
♠ KQ86				
♥ 98				
♦ KQ5				
♣ KQ54				

Lead	Score	Votes	Comments
♥9	100	17	Pure Passive
♠6 K	70	4,4	♠K avoid free ♥ finesse
♣4	30	0	♠6 only 2♠H in sequence
♣K	20	0	
♦ K	10	0	





BW Master Solver's Club

IMPs / None Vul	S	W	N	E
South (Jan 08 p59)			P	1N
♠ 9854	P	3N		
♥ J64				
♦ 105432				
♣ 4				





BW Master Solver's Club

IMPs / None Vul	S	W	N	E
South (Jan 08 p59)			P	1N
♠ 9854	P	3N		
♥ J64				
♦ 105432				
♣ 4				

Lead	Score	Votes	Comments
♥4	100	8	Catch partner w/5♥
♥J ♦3	90	4,8	Lead issues; 4FLS
♠4895	60	2,2,1,0	Our suit
♦52	30	0,0	Variants on 4FLS
♣4	20	1	Safety (??)





Learning Points I

S Deals None Vul		
Mike	N	Steve
	W 27 E	
	S	
	♠ QJ74 ♥ AK72 ♦ 983 ♣ 97	<u>Duplimate:</u> EW: 4N, 4♣, 4♦, 3♠, 3♥

South chose the Club 9 intending to get a ruff.

What's wrong with that picture?

South	West	North	East
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	4♠

South leads ???





Learning Points I

S Deals	♠ 105		
None Vul	♥ 963		
	♦ 10654		
Mike	♣ QJ42		Steve
♠ --	N		♠ AK98632
♥ Q854	W 27 E		♥ J10
♦ AKQ72			♦ J
♣ K1085	S		♣ A63
	♠ QJ74		<u>Duplimate:</u>
	♥ AK72		EW: 4N, 4♣,
	♦ 983		4♦, 3♠, 3♥
	♣ 97		

South chose the Club 9 intending to get a ruff.

What's wrong with that picture?

South	West	North	East
Pass	1♦	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♣	Pass	4♠

South leads ???





Learning Points II

E Deals E/W Vul		Steve
Mike	N W 6 E S	♠ 9763 ♥ A10654 ♦ A7 ♣ 85
		<u>Deep Finesse:</u> NS 1♠, 2♦ 2♣, 1N S 2N

East	South	West	North
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Passed Out	
East leads			

What do you lead?
How does defense prevail?

Declarer plays the ♠Q and West **ducked**, creating an ♠AJ tenace over the board's ♠K4.

Declarer then led the ♥K, showing out in hand. East **ducked** the 2nd ♥ as well. Declarer appears to have entries to the ♥ so the only way to shut down the suit as a source of tricks is to make a 3rd ♥ lead too costly.

Declarer switched to ♣, and West **ducked** the 1st trick, taking the 2nd. This duck is necessary to cut communication to Declarer's hand.

Declarer switches to diamonds. East can take the Ace on the 1st or 2nd trick, it doesn't matter. East must continue spades, and West must return a heart after cashing spades. North can't have the ♠A and East is marked with the ♥A.

After cashing ♠, and a ♥ back, East can cash the 4th ♠.
Down 2 for + 100 and
20 out of 25 match points.





Learning Points II

E Deals	♠ 1052		
E/W Vul	♥		
	♦ KJ86		
Mike	♣ KQJ764	Steve	
♠ AJ8	N	♠ 9763	
♥ 872		♥ A10654	
♦ 9543	W 6 E	♦ A7	
♣ A93	S	♣ 85	
	♠ KQ4	<u>Deep Finesse:</u>	
	♥ KQJ93	NS 1♠, 2♦	
	♦ Q102	2♣, 1N	
	♣ 102	S 2N	

What do you lead?

How does defense prevail?

Declarer plays the ♠Q and West **ducked**, creating an ♠AJ tenace over the board's ♠K4.

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Down 2 for + 100 and
20 out of 25 match points.

East	South	West	North
Pass	1♥	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	3NT	Passed Out	

East leads ♠7



Tactics



Active vs Passive

By their nature, defensive tactics depend on context.

Attack Weakness

Learn to recognize common contexts and identify appropriate counter measures.

Attack Options

There is no cure all – diagnose each hand and play according to the evidence.

Attack Transportation

Work to stay on the same wavelength with partner. Share inferences not just methods.

Create Illusions

Be steady and dependable, but never predictable.





Homework

Jim Becker
David Bird
Easley Blackwood
August Boehm
Sally Brock
Robert Ewen
Jerry Fink & Joe Lutz
Jeremy Flint

Bobby Goldman
Pam/Matt Granovetter
Jan Janitschke
Eddie Kantar
Hugh W. Kelsey
Mike Lawrence
Allan Mazer
Ian McCance

Marshall Miles
Julian Pottage
Jim Priebe
Terence Reese
William Root
George Rosenkranz
Marc Smith
Norma Sands

Frank Stewart
Barbara Starzec
Caroline Sydnor
Frank Thomas
Karen Walker
Anders Wirgren
Kit Woolsey
And many more...

have written reams about bridge defense. This borrows from many.

Read the MASTERS...

