

Module 13 – Planning and Play of NT Contracts

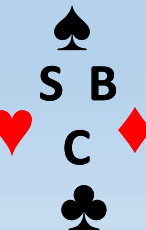
1. Planning play in NT Contracts.
2. Planning defence in NT Contracts
3. Quiz
4. Playing 6 Hands

“Bridge is about making mistakes and learning from them.
Why does my Partner only get half of it right?”



This week's Paddy's Pearl

Kkeep
It
Simple
Stupid



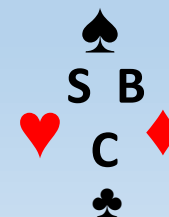


Key Steps in Playing No Trump Contracts

1. The key to card play is **counting**, and to remember to do that during play.
2. When playing NT contracts (indeed any contract) count your **SURE** tricks immediately dummy goes down.
These are tricks you can take from the top at any time, but always when you wish to
3. Having counted your sure tricks, you now know how many **more** tricks you have to make to make your contract. ***These tricks need to be developed***. The challenge is choosing the correct suit/s and play to develop these tricks
4. **AVOID BAD HABITS:** *Don't just take your SURE tricks first.* They control their suits while you try to establish your **WORK** suit. This will usually be a suit you and partner have most of while missing one or two high cards.

The key steps are therefore:

1. Count your SURE tricks
2. Decide your WORK Suit
3. Establish your WORK suit
4. Give up the lead early in your WORK suit
while your SURE tricks control the other suits





What are SURE tricks and how many do I have?

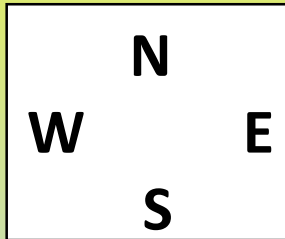
1. An **Ace** is one Sure trick
2. An **AK** in a suit are two Sure tricks
3. An **AKQ** in a suit are three Sure tricks, *provided you have 3 cards in that suit*
4. **AKQ653** opposite **J42** in one suit are six Sure tricks
5. **KQJ10** opposite **987** is **No Sure** tricks since the Ace needs to be taken out. This is a WORK suit to be established.





What are SURE tricks and how many do I have?

♠ AQ54
♥ K7
♦ J632
♣ J98



♠ KJ7
♥ AQ3
♦ 10754
♣ KQ2

West is declarer in 3NT and has 7 SURE tricks:

There are 4 spade tricks, ♠K, ♠J, ♠A ♠Q separately.

Always take tricks in short hand first.

There are 3 heart tricks, ♥K, ♥A and ♥Q (*make sure you don't discard ♥3 on the ♠Q*)

There are no sure tricks in clubs or diamonds.

You need to ***develop two tricks*** to make your contract.

Although ♦s are you longest combined suit holding the obvious suit to make 2 tricks is clubs. So immediately play clubs and draw out the ♣A and you will make two tricks from the ♣KQ and J

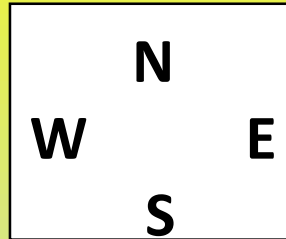
SURE TRICKS can wait – Play your WORK suit first



Planning play in NT

How Many Sure Tricks does Declarer have in these hands?

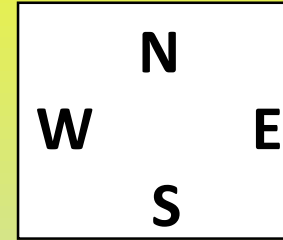
♠ K75
♥ Q1082
♦ AQ
♣ KJ43



♠ 9842
♥ K73
♦ KJ
♣ AQ65

6
2 diamonds
4 clubs

♠ AK4
♥ K952
♦ KQJ3
♣ 76



♠ Q7
♥ AQ6
♦ A4
♣ KJ853

10
3 spades
3 hearts
4 diamonds

(There may be 4 hearts if
the defender's cards split 3:3)





Planning play in NT

How Would South play this hand in 3NT?

♠93
♥AQ2
♦1075
♣AQ982

♠Q10862
♥10743
♦A9
♣KJ

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠AKJ
♥K95
♦10832
♣A74

♠7543
♥J86
♦Q65
♣Q932

W would normally lead ♠6 (4th highest of longest suit), N the ♠3, E the ♠4 and S the ♠J
Declarer can count 7 sure tricks, but taking them can wait.
Diamonds are the work suit (you have 8 missing AQ).
While you still have stops in the other suits, on trick 2 lead ♦2, followed by ♦9, ♦J and losing to ♦Q
East in the lead is likely to lead partner suit ♠7.
South should now lead ♦3 followed by ♦A, ♦4 and ♦5.
West is now in the lead, no matter what he leads declarer Wins, *since he has kept controls in every suit*.
Each side has taken 2 tricks
Say W leads a third spade, S wins and takes his 2 diamond tricks, 3 hearts and ♣A for 9 tricks





Dealer: South
Vulnerability

♠A8
♥Q64
♦1075
♣AQ982

♠J106
♥K53
♦AQ962
♣65

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠754
♥J1092
♦J4
♣K73

♠KQ92
♥A87
♦K83
♣J104

<u>Bidding</u>			
<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
3NT	All Pass	1NT	p

Planning play in Defence

Establishing tricks against NT Contracts

W leads ♦6 (*4th highest of longest suit against NT*) to 3NT by S.
Don't lead the ♦A, N plays ♦5, E plays ♦J (*3rd hand plays high*) and S
Takes with ♦K.

South counts her **SURE** tricks (5) and decides that clubs are her
WORK suit and leads ♣J hoping to find the K in W and make 5 club tricks,
N plays ♣J, N the ♣2 and the bad news is that E takes the ♣K.

Note had E been in the lead she would have led ♥J (**top of a sequence** in
her longest suit, *BUT resist the temptation of thinking only of your own
Hand, lead partner's led suit*, the ♦4 and E takes ♦Q and the next
3 diamond tricks to put the contract 1 back).

Notice why the lead of the ♦A is bad !!, on the second ♦ lead S wins with
the ♦K and when E gets into lead with the ♣K she doesn't have a ♦ to lead,
So S makes her contract.

Equally ♥J at trick 3 would mean S takes ♥A and makes her 9 tricks.

Declarer: Don't worry that you have gone off. The play is correct
Not every contract or finesse makes

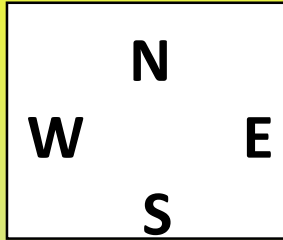




Planning play in Defence

What is your most Effective Opening Lead?

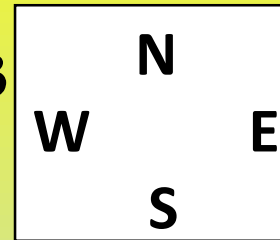
♠ K1074
♥ Q86
♦ K1074
♣ 85



<u>Bidding</u>			
<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
		1♦	p
1♥	p	1NT	All Pass

West has to lead against 1NT by South
With 2 four card suits what should she lead?
The bidding provides the answer,
South bid diamonds.
No-one bid spades, **so lead the unbid suit.**
Lead the ♠4 fourth highest against NT
Remember the “rule of 11” from earlier lessons.

♠ A874
♥ AQ1053
♦ 93
♣ Q7



<u>Bidding</u>			
<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
	p	1NT	p
2♣	p	2♥	p
3NT	All Pass		

What has opponents bidding told you about the hands?
S reply of 2♥ to Ns “Stayman” tells you she has 4 hearts.
N bid of 3NT tells you she has 4 spades and <4 hearts.
With a minimum of 25HCPs, your partner has little.
Hearts in spite of S bid, lead ♥5 in the hope that partner has the ♥K or ♥J

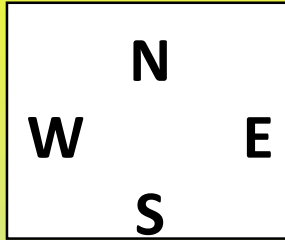




Planning play in Defence

What is your most Effective Opening Lead?

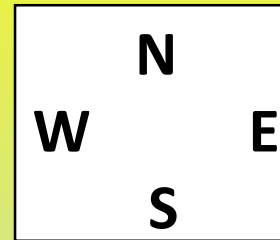
♠ 105
♥ 98762
♦ K74
♣ 854



<u>Bidding</u>			
<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♦	1♠	1NT	p
3NT	All Pass		

You lack entries to establish any of your suits.
Partner's overcall guarantees at least 5 spades
And a good hand (probably at least an opener).
Therefore best to try to help partner since she
May have entries to establish her long suit.
Lead ♠10, top of a doubleton

♠ Q74
♥ 9433
♦ 983
♣ 10987



<u>Bidding</u>			
<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
p	1♠	1NT	p
3NT	All Pass		

Again you lack entries to establish your suit
This time partner has opened 1♠ so he may only
have 4 spades with ~13HCPs
However, he could have more spades, so lead the
♠4, *a low card promising partner an honour*





Module 13 Quiz

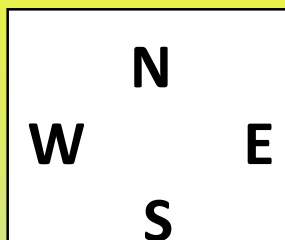
Q1

♠ AQ87

♥ Q964

♦ KQ

♣ A106



♠ J54

♥ J1085

♦ A954

♣ Q5

West plays in 1NT

N leads ♠2 to East's ♠4, South's ♠9
and West's ♠Q

1. How many SURE tricks can you count?

5

2. What is the WORK suit?

Hearts

3. Which cards will be played by declarer and dummy at trick 2?

♥Q and ♥5

4. How many tricks do you expect to make?

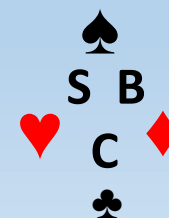
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5. What do you think are the spades in N and S hands?

North has 4, probably ♠K1062

South has 2, probably 93 since

normally play highest on trick 3





Module 13 Quiz

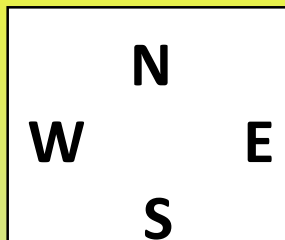
Q2

♠ KJ7

♥ J3

♦ A962

♣ A1085



♠ 654

♥ K10972

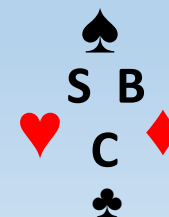
♦ K43

♣ 92

West plays in 1NT

N leads ♠3 to East's ♠4, South's ♠Q and West's ♠K

1. How many SURE tricks can you count? **4** (lead makes ♠K a Sure trick)
2. What is the WORK suit? **Hearts**
3. Which card will W play at trick 2? **♥J**
4. How many tricks do you expect to make? **7**
- 5.
6. Which defender had ♠A? **North**





Module 13 - Quiz

Q3. You are West, what do you lead?

♠ 9863
♥ AJ952
♦ A5
♣ J8

	N	
W		E
	S	

Bidding			
<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
p	p	1NT	All Pass

♥5

♠ 982
♥ Q9
♦ Q1053
♣ K1083

	N	
W		E
	S	

Bidding			
<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
	p	1♣	p
1♠	p	1NT	p
3NT	All Pass		

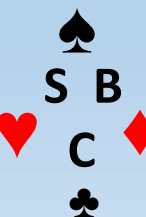
♦3

♠ QJ102
♥ 964
♦ A7
♣ Q1083

	N	
W		E
	S	

Bidding			
<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♥	p	1NT	All Pass

♠Q



Playing Hands for Module 13

“Bridge is about making mistakes and learning from them.
Why does my Partner only get half of it right?”



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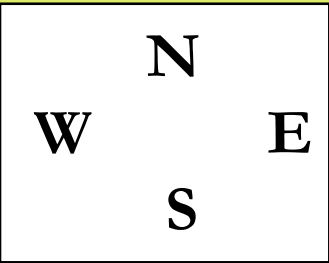




Dealer: North
 Vulnerability: Non Vul

♠765 **2HCP**
 ♥Q8743
 ♦1063
 ♣42

11HCP
 ♠J10
 ♥J109
 ♦KJ2
 ♣KQ1063



14HCP
 ♠AK3
 ♥A52
 ♦Q874
 ♣J97

♠Q9842
 ♥K6 **13HCP**
 ♦A95
 ♣A85

<u>Bidding</u>			
<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
	1NT	p	2NT
p	3NT	All Pass	

Deal 13.1

With 25HCP I expect E/W to be in a game contract

Bidding: With 12-14HCP and a balanced hand I expect E to bid 1NT
 With 11HCP and a balanced hand W should bid 2NT
 inviting game if E has top of her point range
 With 14HCP E should bid 3NT

Lead: S should lead ♠4, 4th highest in longest suit, followed by ♠J
 then ♠5 from N and ♠3 from E

Card Play: E can only see 4 **SURE** tricks and should aim to promote
 4 tricks in her ♣ **WORK** suit and then promote a ♦ **WORK**
 suit. Hence lead ♣J and continue until ♣A is out. S should
 hold up until the 3rd club trick and probably lead a ♥ since
 she knows E must have ♠AK. This will promote an extra
 heart trick in E/W. E should lead 2♦ to KJ to create the entry
 to W to be able to take the last 2 club tricks.

I expect E/W to make **10 tricks** losing only
 ♦A, ♣A and ♥K





Dealer: East
 Vulnerability: N/S Vul

♠654 **6HCP**
 ♥K10972
 ♦K43
 ♣92

10HCP
 ♠A1083
 ♥Q86
 ♦105
 ♣KJ74

	N	
W		E
	S	

9HCP
 ♠Q92
 ♥A54
 ♦QJ87
 ♣1063

♠KJ7
 ♥J3 **15HCP**
 ♦A962
 ♣AQ85

<u>Bidding</u>			
<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
	p	1♣	p
1♥	p	1NT	p

Deal 13.2

With 21HCP and S having the only opening hand I expect N/S to play in a part-score contract

Bidding: S is too strong for 1NT so should bid a 4 card minor and when N bids 1♥ can show a balanced hand and 15/16HCP with 1NT bid..

Lead: ♠3, 4th highest and S will win with the ♠K.

Card Play: S should assess **4 SURE tricks** now and the need to establish the ♥'s as the **WORK** suit by leading the ♥J and finessing losing to the ♥K. East should lead ♠9 giving partner 3 spade tricks. If E discards the ♣3 on the 4th spade to indicate the lower of the remaining suits excluding clubs, W should switch to ♦10.

I expect N/S to make 8 tricks, 1♠ trick, 4♥, 2♦ and 1♣. If the defence make the wrong discards or the wrong suit switch on trick 6, then N/S will make 9 tricks.

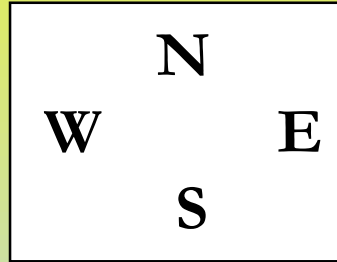




Dealer: South
 Vulnerability: E/W Vul

♠KJ5 **12HCP**
 ♥Q96
 ♦K63
 ♣K742

10HCP
 ♠983
 ♥A4
 ♦Q982
 ♣A1063



0HCP
 ♠10764
 ♥108752
 ♦1054
 ♣8

♠AQ2
 ♥KJ3 **18HCP**
 ♦AJ7
 ♣QJ95

<u>Bidding</u>			
<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
		1♣	p
2NT	p	3NT	All Pass

Deal 13.3

With 31HCP I would expect N/S to be in a game.

Bidding: S opens his 4 card minor. There is no need for N to support a minor suit with a balanced hand. S with a balanced hand and knowing they have 29-30HCP bids only 3N

Lead: Although no entries, there is no reason for East not leading the ♥5, 4th highest in the hope that they have a long suit

Card Play: South can see 8 Sure tricks after the heart lead.

The **Work** suits are clubs and then hearts

W should take the ♥ lead and return ♥4 which S should take. S should establish her ♣ work suit while controlling stops in all other suits, leading ♣Q and continuing until ♣A is out.

South should make 11 tricks losing only ♣A and ♥A.





Dealer: West

Vulnerability: None Vul

♠A874 10HCP

♥AQ1053

♦93

♣87

12HCP

♠KJ

♥K972

♦A1054

♣J106

	N	
W		E
	S	

14HCP

♠Q965

♥8

♦KQ62

♣AK32

♠1032

♥J64

♦J87 4HCP

♣Q954

Bidding

<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>
1NT	p	2♣	p
2♥	p	3NT	All Pass

Deal 13.4

With 26HCP I would expect E/W to be in a game.

Bidding: W opens 1NT with a balanced hand and 12-14HCPs.

In response to partner's "stayman 2C" W bids 2♥ showing a 4 card suit. E bids game 3NT since her 4 card suit is spades.

Lead: Although W bid hearts N should lead ♥5 hoping to find partner with ♥K or ♥J.

Card Play: W takes lead with ♥K and counts 6 *Sure tricks* and possibly 7 if diamonds split 3:2. She expects to make 9 tricks provided ♥ split 4:4 or the ♣ finesse works.

Unfortunately neither does so the contract goes back 1 losing 4♥ tricks and ♣Q

If W had led ♠K and N takes ♠A she must lead ♣8 not a ♥. S is "marked" with ♣Q. Has W the ♣Q she would have played on the club suit. When S gets in with ♣Q she should lead the heart suit originally led





Dealer: North
 Vulnerability: N/S Vul

♠AQ8 **19HCP**
 ♥KQ3
 ♦A75
 ♣KJ93

1HCP
 ♠10764
 ♥98752
 ♦J104
 ♣8

	N	
W		E
	S	

11HCP
 ♠J93
 ♥A4
 ♦Q98
 ♣A7654

♠K52
 ♥J106
 ♦K632 **9HCP**
 ♣Q102

<u>Bidding</u>			
<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
1♣	p	1NT	p
3NT	p	All Pass	

Deal 13.5

With 28HCP I would expect N/S to be in a game.

Bidding: N opens 1♣ her only 4 card suit, S bids 1NT showing 6-8HCP (slightly underbid) but over a minor 1NT tends to be top of the range and also denies a 4 card major. N knowing they have at least 25-27HCP bids 3NT

Lead: In the absence of any information W makes a passive ♥5 lead, 4th highest

Card Play: On taking ♥A and returning S can count her tricks. here are 7 SURE tricks and clubs is the WORK suit. S should lead ♣Q and continue until the ♣A is out. N/S should make 10 tricks losing ♣A, ♥A and ♦Q





Dealer: East
 Vulnerability: E/W Vul

♠ J72 **10HCP**
 ♥ Q1083
 ♦ K65
 ♣ A94

6HCP
 ♠ 105
 ♥ 962
 ♦ QJ74
 ♣ QJ83

	N	
W		E
	S	

14HCP
 ♠ AK6
 ♥ KJ4
 ♦ 983
 ♣ K1075

♠ Q9843
 ♥ A75
 ♦ A102 **10HCP**
 ♣ 62

<u>Bidding</u>			
<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>W</u>
	1NT	All Pass	

Deal 13.6

With 20HCP each, I expect E/W to be in a part score contract since E was the only one with an opening hand

Bidding: With 14HCP and a flat hand E opens 1NT and everyone else passes

Lead: S leads ♠4, 4th highest. E should duck the first spade.

Card Play: Ducking the first spade doesn't help if S has entries which she does. After the second spade lead E counts her tricks. She has **2 SURE tricks** so must **make 5 tricks on Work Suits**. ♣ is the first Work suit and ♦ the second. On losing to ♣A N leads a 3rd spade, which is won with the ♠K. E/W should make 3 club tricks taking the last trick in E and leading a diamond towards the ♦QJ. I would expect the contract to **go back 1 trick**.

EW is likely to win 2♠, and 1 trick from ♥ or ♦ and 3♣ tricks
 NS should make 3♠, at least 1♥, 2♦ and 1♣

