

OPENING LEADS AGAINST NTS

C7 LEAD

If you lead the CA, you can no longer set the contract because you have no outside entries to make the rest of your clubs!

♠ A52	♠ KJ96
♥ QJ72	♥ 108643
♦ AK73	♦ 96
♣ 96	♣ Q5

♠ 743	♠ Q108
♥ 95	♥ AK
♦ 105	♦ QJ842
♣ AK10742	♣ J83

S	W	N	E
1NT	P	2C	P
2D	P	3NT	

H7 LEAD

4th highest is correct here. - H4 - HQ - HK.

(Advanced play by declarer would be to duck the HQ).

♠ K75	♠ AQJ3	♠ 8642
♥ A10975	♥ 84	♥ Q63
♦ 1095	♦ Q73	♦ J862
♣ 52	♣ KJ106	♣ A8

♠ 109	
♥ KJ2	
♦ AK4	
♣ Q9743	

S	W	N	E
1NT	P	2C	P
2D	P	3NT	

SJ LEAD

Top from two of partner's suit.

IF east plays low on a heart lead from dummy, nine tricks are there

♠ 76	♠ AQ10852
♥ J975	♥ KQ3
♦ AK64	♦ J9
♣ AQ2	♣ 106

♠ J3	♠ K94
♥ 862	♥ A104
♦ 10873	♦ Q52
♣ J975	♣ K843

S	W	N	E
1NT	P	2C	2S
P	P	3NT	

SK LEAD

If you lead the S7 (4th highest), declarer makes! He can afford to lose the HA because he still has the spade suit stopped.

♠ KQJ72	♠ 953	♠ 86
♥ A93	♥ KQ764	♥ 852
♦ 84	♦ K10	♦ J976
♣ 875	♣ AQ2	♣ J943

♠ A104	
♥ J10	
♦ AQ532	
♣ K106	

S	W	N	E
1NT	2S	3H	P
3NT			

SQ LEAD

If you lead the S7 (4th highest) east will be forced to play SA to win.

When diamonds break 3-3 declarer has his 9 tricks.

♠ K42	♠ A86
♥ K102	♥ 863
♦ 875	♦ 1093
♣ AK76	♣ J943

♠ QJ1075	♠ 93
♥ QJ7	♥ A954
♦ QJ6	♦ AK42
♣ 108	♣ Q52

S	W	N	E
1NT	P	3NT	

S7 LEAD

Partner, east cannot have any pts. and leading from your honours is likely to cost.

Make a safe MUD lead and let declarer find the honours.

♠ 973	♠ AQ2	♠ 10864
♥ AQ4	♥ 965	♥ J82
♦ KQ2	♦ J1085	♦ 643
♣ K752	♣ A98	♣ J64

♠ KJ5	
♥ K1073	
♦ A97	
♣ Q103	

S	W	N	E
1NT	P	2NT	P
3NT			

H9 LEAD

With NO pts you should play for your partner who must have pts. With no interest in majors from N/S where are the hearts. Partner knows it cannot be 4th highest!

♠ K93	♠ Q107
♥ K85	♥ AQ1063
♦ AQ5	♦ 764
♣ Q652	♣ A9

♠ 6542	♠ AJ8
♥ 92	♥ J74
♦ 832	♦ KJ109
♣ J843	♣ K107

S	W	N	E
1NT	P	3NT	P

HQ LEAD

If you lead the H9 (4th highest) you can no longer set the contract. HQ is top of a near internal sequence.

♠ 986	♠ A3	♠ J742
♥ AQJ92	♥ K105	♥ 743
♦ J32	♦ K96	♦ 1085
♣ 53	♣ Q9762	♣ K108

♠ KQ105	
♥ 86	
♦ AQ74	
♣ AJ4	

S	W	N	E
1S	P	2C	P
1NT	P	3NT	

OPENING LEADS

♠ K93
 ♥ K7
 ♦ A432
 ♣ J853
 ♠ QJ1072
 ♥ Q62
 ♦ K7
 ♣ 962
 ♠ 85
 ♥ A93
 ♦ QJ96
 ♣ AKQ10
 ♠ A64
 ♥ J10854
 ♦ 1085
 ♣ 74

S	W	N	E
1C	P	1D	P
1NT	P	3NT	

LEAD SQ TOP OF SEQUENCE

Notice how leading 4th highest would be wrong! If dummy plays low and SA wins declarer still has the SK

LEAD C7 MUD

East wins CQ and cashes CA on which west plays C9. Knowing that west cannot ruff, east switches to a diamond. (Dummy's weakness).

♠ AQ984
 ♥ QJ
 ♦ 1064
 ♣ K105
 ♠ 62
 ♥ 10854
 ♦ 8732
 ♣ AQ4
 ♠ J7
 ♥ 7632
 ♦ AQ95
 ♣ 972
 ♠ K1053
 ♥ AK9
 ♦ KJ
 ♣ J863

S	W	N	E
1S	P	4S	

♠ AK94
 ♥ 108
 ♦ Q643
 ♣ K105
 ♠ 1087
 ♥ Q64
 ♦ AJ1095
 ♣ 92
 ♠ 6
 ♥ J7532
 ♦ 872
 ♣ AQ74
 ♠ QJ532
 ♥ AK9
 ♦ K
 ♣ J863

S	W	N	E
1S	P	4S	

LEAD C9 SHORT SUIT LEAD

Partner must SEE your HI-LO and play another club to get a ruff

LEAD HK LEADING PARTNER'S SUIT.

With 2 cards lead HI-LO East cashes three heart tricks and sits back until declarer tries the doomed club finesse!

♠ Q1053
 ♥ 1054
 ♦ A
 ♣ AQ1054
 ♠ 72
 ♥ K7
 ♦ 1098542
 ♣ 972
 ♠ J6
 ♥ AQJ98
 ♦ J76
 ♣ K63
 ♠ AK984
 ♥ 632
 ♦ KQ3
 ♣ J8

N	E	S	W
1C	1H	1S	P
2S	P	4S	

♠ QJ654
 ♥ 42
 ♦ K6
 ♣ AJ97
 ♠ 10
 ♥ K75
 ♦ 10875
 ♣ 106532
 ♠ 73
 ♥ AJ1096
 ♦ AQJ3
 ♣ 84
 ♠ AK982
 ♥ Q83
 ♦ 942
 ♣ KQ

S	W	N	E
1S	P	3S	1H
4S			P

LEAD H5 LEADING PARTNER'S SUIT.

Low from an honour. (holding 3 or 4) Not highest of partner's suit!

Diamond switch sets the contract.

LEAD H5 YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN!

With 12 HCPs, partner cannot have anything. So playing for ruffs is a nonsense. Lead a trump and let declarer do the work!

♠ J764
 ♥ KJ63
 ♦ J32
 ♣ AJ
 ♠ AQ82
 ♥ 1075
 ♦ AQ95
 ♣ 92
 ♠ 1093
 ♥ 4
 ♦ 10764
 ♣ Q7543
 ♠ K5
 ♥ AQ982
 ♦ K8
 ♣ K1086

S	W	N	E
1H	P	3H	P
4H			

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

S	W	N	E
1H	P	2C	P
2NT	P	3NT	

LEAD D6 4TH HIGHEST

Although the lead gives declarer a trick, you are nearer to establishing your long suit.

S9 LEAD HI-LO

East wins SA and returns. If South tries to draw trumps. East wins and plays a 3rd spade which you ruff! Declarer must throw a spade on winning diamond

♠ K52
 ♥ QJ96
 ♦ AK4
 ♣ 943
 ♠ 94
 ♥ 52
 ♦ 9762
 ♣ K10762
 ♠ AJ1083
 ♥ A7
 ♦ J853
 ♣ 85
 ♠ Q76
 ♥ K10843
 ♦ Q10
 ♣ AQJ

S	W	N	E
1H	P	4H	P

WHAT TO PLAY ON PARTNER'S LEAD

Keeping a Guard on Dummy's Honour Card

	Dummy	
	♦ Q32	
Lead		♦ A105
♦ J964		
	♦ K87	

East, 3rd in hand, should play ♦10, **keeping ♦A to guard ♦Q**.
If east plays ♦A, declarer gets two tricks instead of one!

	Dummy	
	♦ Q32	
Lead		♦ AJ5
♦ K964		
	♦ 1087	

East, 3rd in hand, should play ♦J, **keeping ♦A to guard ♦Q**.
When ♦J holds, east cashes ♦A and returns ♦5

	Dummy	
	♦ Q32	
Lead		♦ K95
♦ A1064		
	♦ J87	

East, 3rd in hand, should play ♦9, **keeping ♦K to guard ♦Q**.
♦9 DOES NOT give a trick away.
Declarer is entitled to 1 diamond trick.

Play *Highest When there is NOTHING to Guard in Dummy.

	Dummy	
	♦ 732	
Lead		♦ AJ5
♦ K1064		
	♦ Q108	

With nothing to guard in dummy, east, 3rd in hand, should play ♦A.
On this layout, declarer is not entitled to any tricks.

	Dummy	
	♦ 32	
Lead		♦ KJ5
♦ A10964		
	♦ Q87	

With nothing to guard in dummy, east, 3rd in hand, should play ♦K.
Important to return ♦J (hi-lo) from the two remaining diamonds.

	Dummy	
	♦ 732	
Lead		♦ KJ5
♦ Q1096		
	♦ A84	

With nothing to guard in dummy, east, 3rd in hand, should play ♦K.
If declarer ducks, return ♦J (hi-lo) from the two remaining diamonds.

**When you are defending, ALWAYS try to win with the lower or lowest of touching honours. e.g. With QJ8*

	Dummy	
	♦ A32	
Lead		♦ K95
♦ QJ64		
	♦ 1087	

Because east cannot beat the ♦A pretend it's not there and play ♦K
This holds declarer to one trick.

	Dummy	
	♦ K32	
Lead		♦ Q105
♦ A964		
	♦ J87	

Because east cannot beat the ♦K pretend it's not there and play ♦Q
This holds declarer to one trick.

	Dummy	
	♦ Q32	
Lead		♦ K64
♦ J1095		
	♦ A87	

West leads Top of a Sequence.
East only plays ♦K if ♦Q is played from dummy. ♦4 is the correct card.
This is a count signal!

As you would if there was nothing to guard in dummy

What to Play on Partner's Top of Sequence Leads

	Dummy	
	♦ 73	
Lead		♦ K82
♦ AJ1094		
	♦ Q65	

The one card that west DOESN'T have, is the ♦Q. East must therefore play ♦K and return ♦8

	Dummy	
	♦ A32	
Lead		♦ K8
♦ QJ1094		
	♦ 765	

With only two cards, east must unblock ♦K and return ♦8
This holds declarer to one trick.

	Dummy	
	♦ 1032	
Lead		♦ A8
♦ KQJ94		
	♦ 765	

With only two cards, east must overtake ♦K and return the ♦8.

**King leads against NTs are special!
More later!**