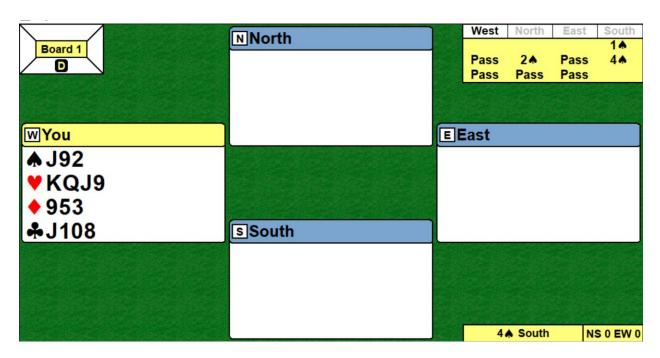
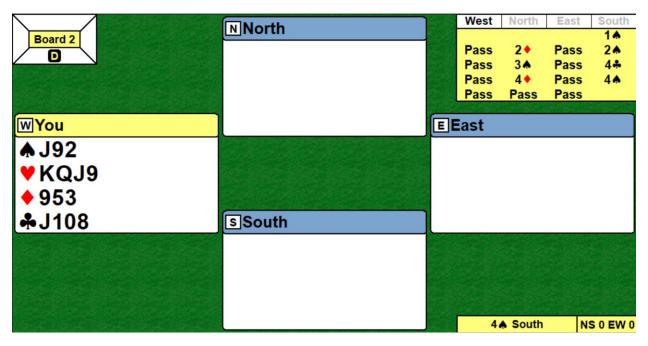
Kit Teaches Passive or Aggressive Opening Leads



Here, there's no real danger lurking in dummy. Lead the King of Hearts.



Here, dummy is strong and we might need to get our tricks, but our heart holding is still the best chance. This is a lead that combines passive (safe) and aggressive (trick hunting)

1085

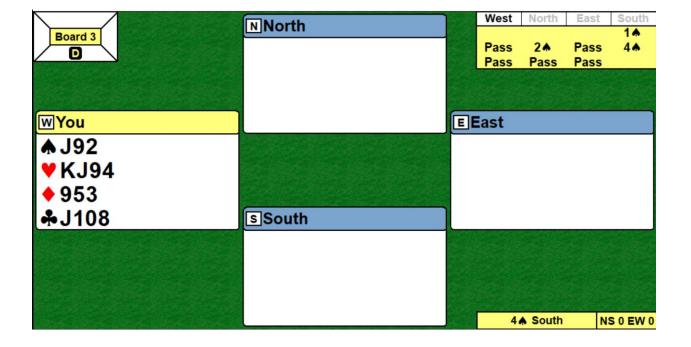
KJ94

If you lead from the KJ94 holding, would give up a trick as the opponents can win the queen in either hand.

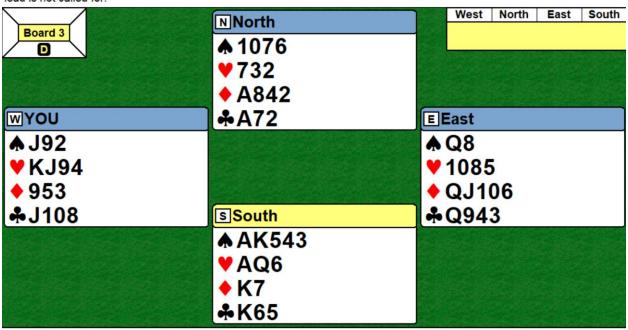
Q105

KJ94

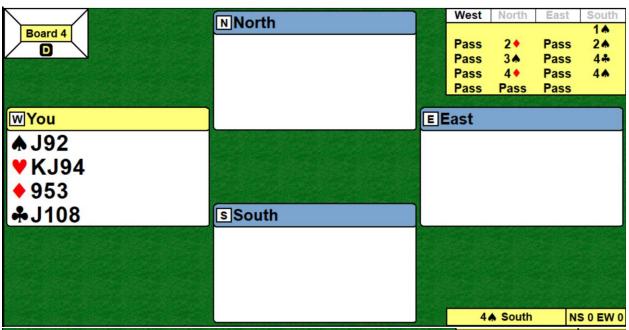
If you lead from the KJ94 holding, it will be fine—declarer only wins the ace. Leading from KJ94 can give up a trick or it can set up tricks. It's an aggressive lead



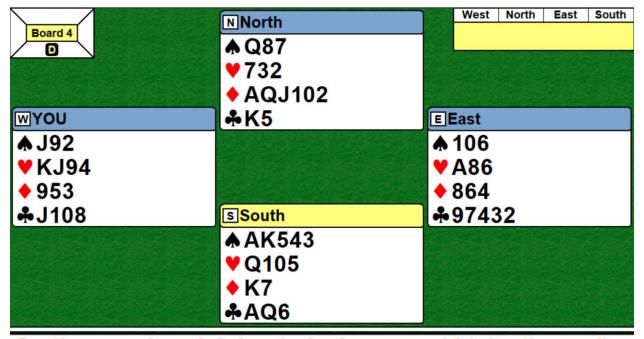
The opponents may be in a close game, and there is no clear need to establish or cash tricks quickly. An aggressive heart lead is not called for.



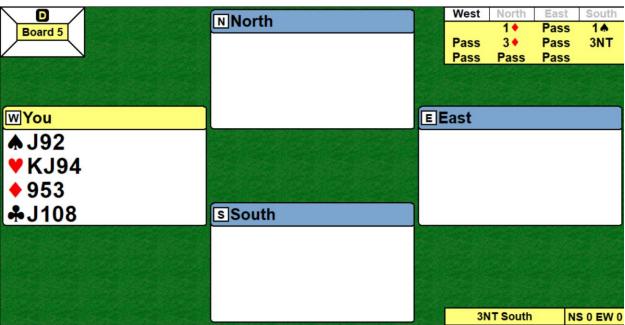
A heart lead would give up the contract. The club Jack should be led, and this will set the contract.



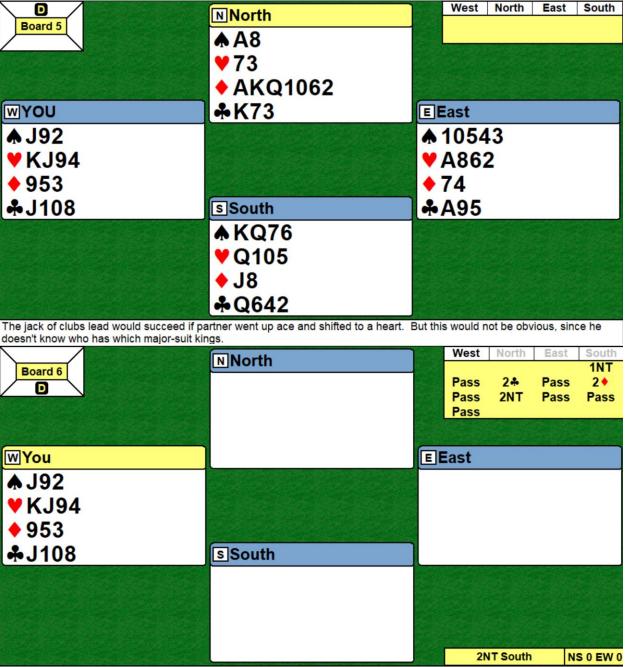
Here the opponents have extra strength since they were investigating slam. In addition, there may be discards coming from dummy's diamonds. It looks like quick action is called for, so the aggressive heart lead is best.



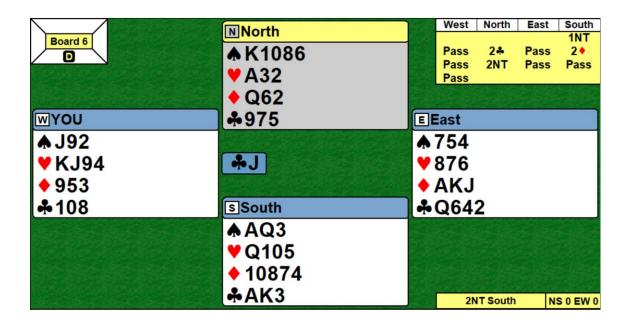
On the passive club lead, declarer would take them all.



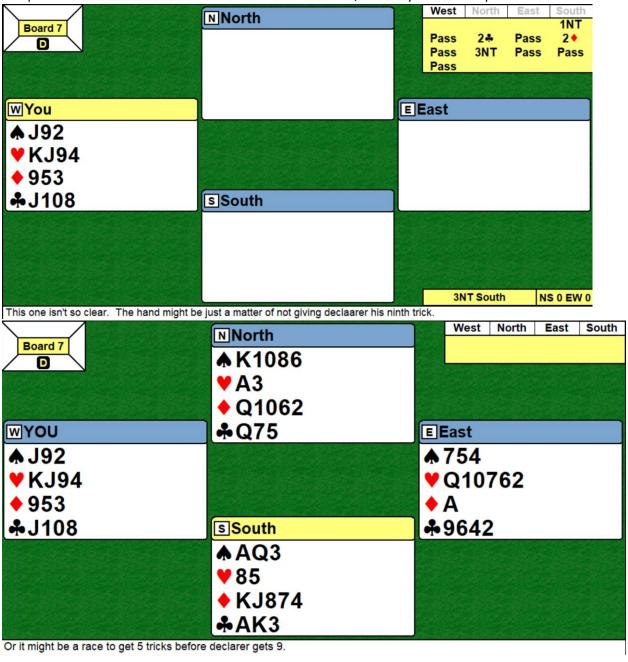
Dummy's long diamond suit is going to produce tricks for declarer. It may be necessary to establish or cash tricks quickly. This indicates a heart lead.



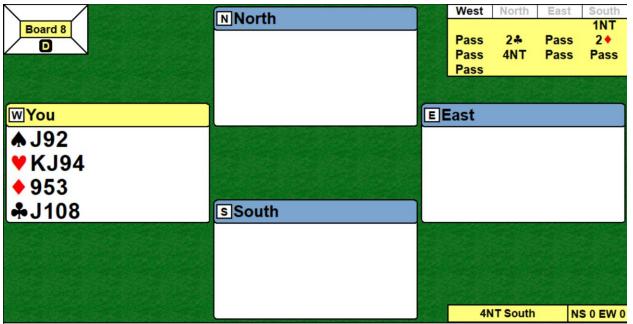
You don't have to run 6 tricks quickly to defeat this contract. Neither side figures to have a long suit to run. It figures to be a matter of setting up slow tricks without giving anything away. That indicates a club lead.



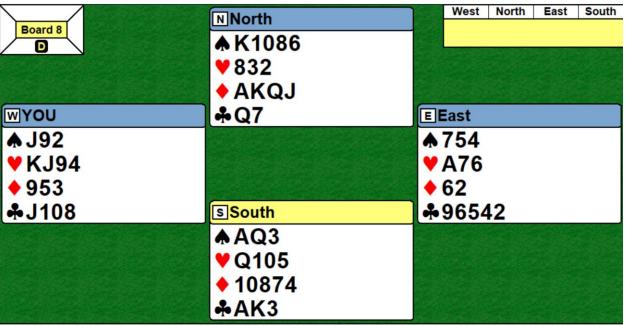
The passive lead here forces declare to work for their tricks, and they will come up short.



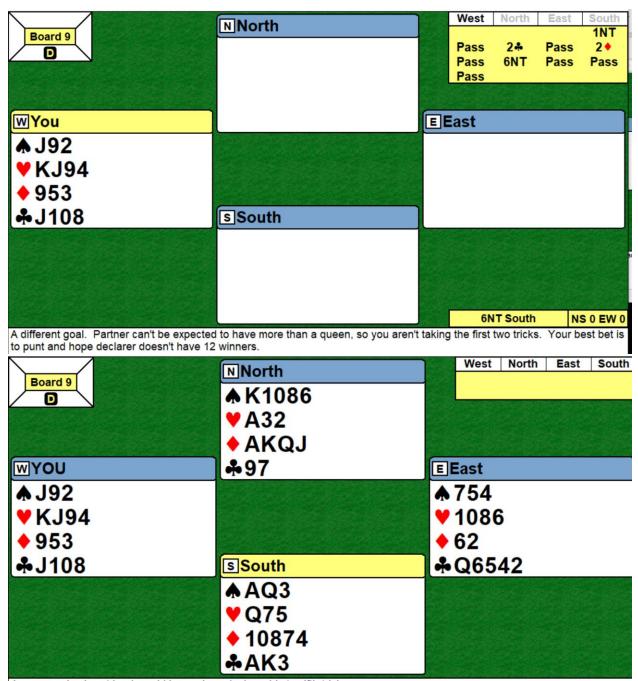
Sometimes leads are guesses. Here either could work.



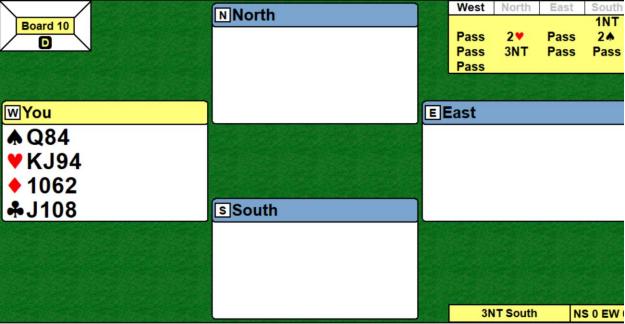
This is a different story. The opponents probably have at least 30 HCP between them for this sequence. They figure to have 10 tricks if you don't act quickly. Partner just could have the ace of hearts. 4 tricks in hearts will be enough to defeat 4NT.



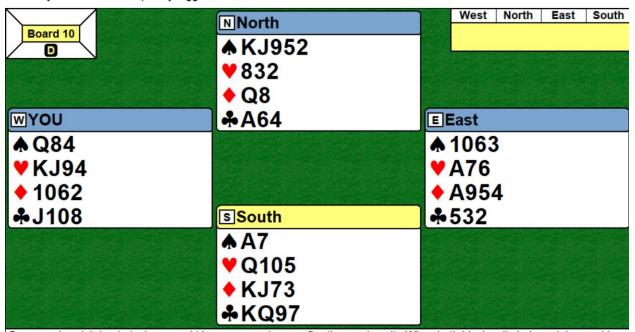
It was lucky to find partner with the ace of hearts, but it was the only chance. You could not defeat this contract with any other 4 HCP partner might hold.



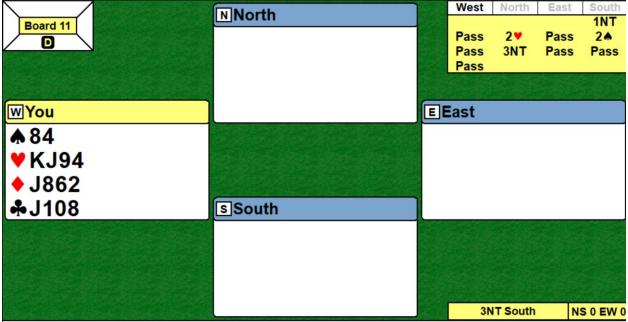
An aggressive heart lead would have given declarer his twelfth trick



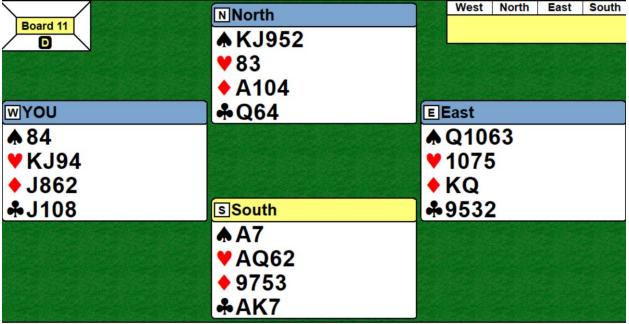
While you don't know whether or not the opponents have extra strength, your spade holding indicates that the suit is lying favorably for them. Consequently, aggression is in order.



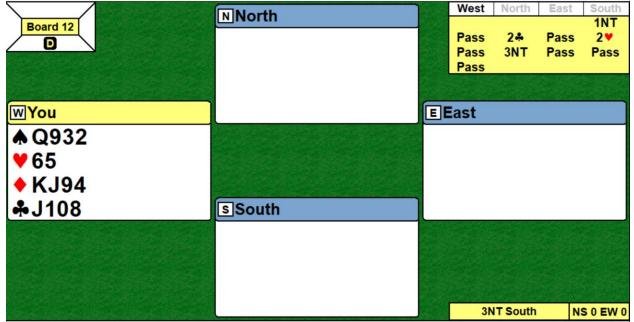
On a passive club lead, declarer would have won and gone after the spade suit. When both black suits behaved, he would have had 9 quick tricks.



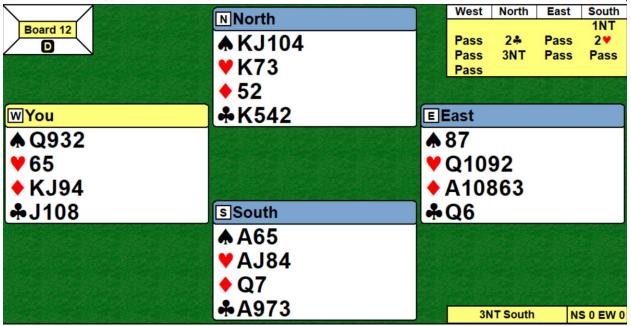
You can't know about dummy's spade spots. However, holding two small spades there is good reason to hope that partner has the spades bottled up. Therefore, there is no need for aggression.



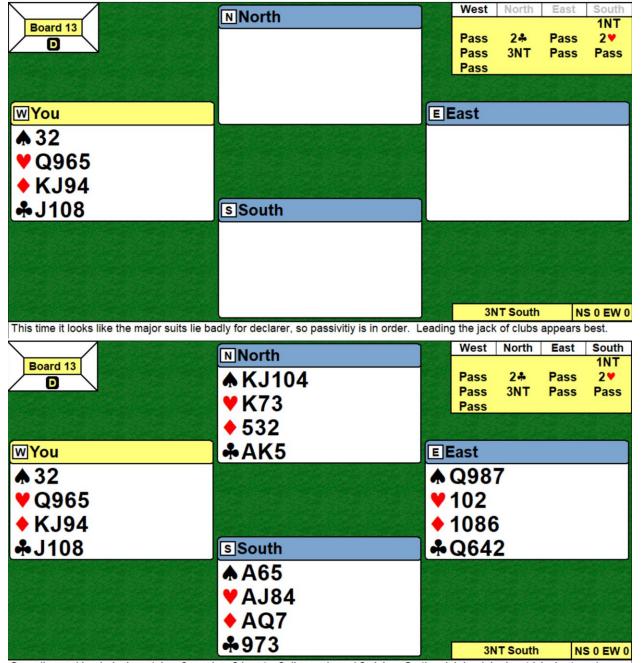
Even with 27 HCP, everything well stopped, and a long suit which could be established, declarer could take only 8 tricks. The aggressive heart lead would have given him his ninth trick.



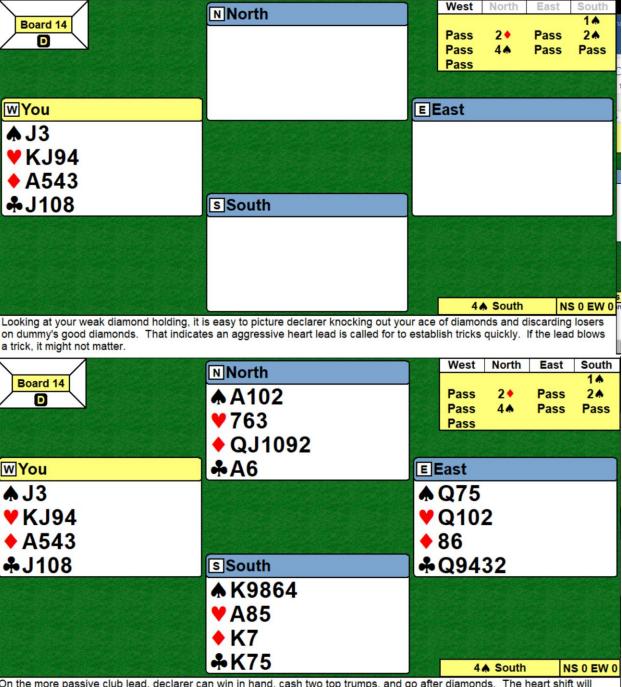
The auction tells you that dummy has 4 spades and declarer has 4 hearts. Your holdings in these suits appear to be favorable for declarer, so an aggressive lead is called for.



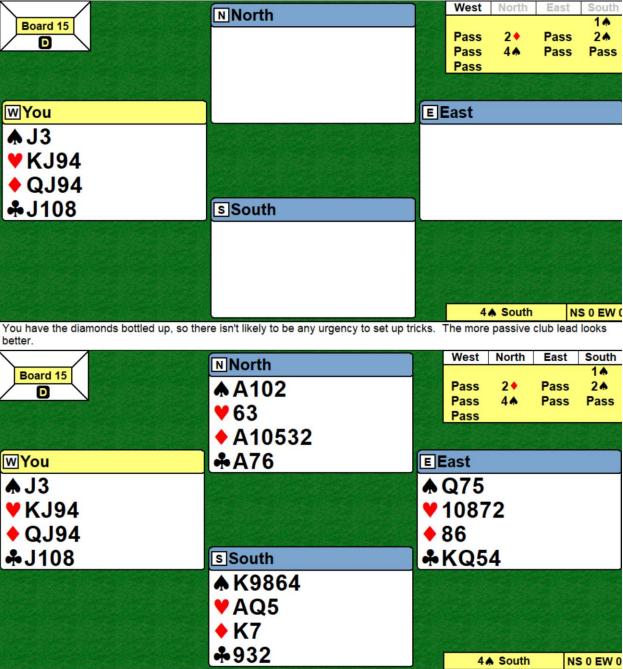
On a diamond lead, you take the first 5 diamond tricks to defeat the contract. But look what happens on a club lead.



On a diamond lead, declarer takes 3 spades, 2 hearts, 2 diamonds and 2 clubs. On the club lead, he is a trick short, and may go down, even with the combined 29 HCP.



On the more passive club lead, declarer can win in hand, cash two top trumps, and go after diamonds. The heart shift will come too late, as declarer will be able to discard one heart loser before partner can ruff in.



The heart lead would hand declarer the contract.