

Lecture Board 1

#16 Dlr: West

Vul: E-W

	North	
	S. AJ32	
	H. Q54	
	D. AK103	
	C. 95	
West		East
S. 8		S. 10976
H. K872		H. J9
D. 876		D. 9542
C. AKQ62		C. J43
	South	
	S. KQ54	
	H. A1063	
	D. QJ	
	C. 1087	

West	North	East	South
1C	Dbl.	Pass	2C
Pass	2D	Pass	2H
Pass	2S	Pass	4S
All Pass			

Opening lead: C3

Bidding Commentary: South's 2C response, a cuebid, is the strongest response to a takeout double. It shows 12 or more HCP and is forcing to suit agreement. After a cuebid, the partnership bids four card suits in ascending order looking for a 4-4 fit. After North bids 2S, South raises to game. A raise after a cuebid is invitational. The one who knows, goes!

Lead Commentary: Normal. Low from 3 cards (excluding the ace) when leading your partner's suit which you have not **supported**. Do NOT lead top of partner's suit unless you have touching honors or you have supported and hold three small cards. West plays three top clubs.

Play Commentary: As declarer, it is mega- important to watch the spot card that is led plus the follow up card in that suit. Here the C3 was led followed by the C4 (low-high) indicating at least one more club. Therefore it is safe for North to trump the third club **low**. Had the C4 been led followed by the C3, the lead figures to be from a doubleton and North should trump high. After ruffing the club, trumps are drawn and 10 tricks are available: 5 spades (including the club ruff), four diamonds, and the HA.

Lecture Board 2

#32 Dlr: West

Vul: E-W

			North		
			S. 75		
			H. K86		
			D. 7432		
			C. AQJ10		
	West			East	
	S. AKJ83			S. Q1042	
	H. 75			H. 32	
	D. A106			D. QJ98	
	C. 872			C. 963	
			South		
			S. 96		
			H. AQJ1094		
			D. K5		
			C. K54		
West	North	East	South		
1S	Pass	2S	3H		
Pass	4H	All Pass			

Opening lead: SA

Bidding Commentary: West should not compete to 3S holding five spades and a **balanced** minimum. To compete with a minimum after having been supported, opener needs **six** spades or five spades with a side four or five card suit. Some distribution.

Defensive commentary: East plays the S10 at trick one to show an equal honor. West, with a diamond holding that might need a lead from partner, leads a low spade to East's promised queen. East shifts to the DQ giving the defense the first four tricks.

When a suit has been supported, an encouraging signal in response to a ace lead shows an equal honor - the queen. It is the equivalent of playing the queen from the queen-jack when partner's lead shows the ace-king. Give East the QJ52 and East plays the SQ at trick one promising the SJ **in blood**. These signals allow the opening leader to make seemingly daring, but actually safe, underleads if a lead in another suit from partner is desired.

Play Commentary: If the defense doesn't cash the first four tricks, declarer makes the hand easily taking six hearts and four clubs.

Lecture Board 3

#13 Dlr: North

Vul: Both

	North	
	Q96	
	J987	
	94	
	KQT5	
West		East
K4		A532
QT64		A3
T765		AKQ
J32		9764
	South	
	S. J1087	
	H. K52	
	D. J832	
	C. A8	

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
All Pass			

Opening lead: SJ

Bidding Commentary: West is not strong enough to use Stayman, a response which normally requires at least 8+ HCP.

Lead Commentary: At notrump, suits headed by the J109 and J108 are 'sequence' suits and the top card is led. Fourth best is led from suits headed by the J107x or weaker.

Play Commentary: East starts with six sure tricks with a good chance for a seventh in diamonds if the suit breaks 3-3 or the jack drops. There is also a chance for an extra trick in hearts. The key is to keep a **later** dummy entry so these possible tricks can be reached. East wins the SA (key play) and cashes the DAKQ. When the jack does not drop, East falls back on plan B, playing the ace and a heart hoping to develop a seventh trick in that suit.

Defensive Commentary: North signals with the S9 at trick one to show an honor. On the third diamond, North can afford to discard a heart. Declarer cannot have the AK of hearts. Why? Declarer has already shown up with 13 HCP: the SA and the DAKQ. Furthermore, if declarer has one heart honor, South has the CA.

Defensive Commentary #2: When declarer plays the ace and a heart, second hand must play **low** without a care in the world. Partner is marked with the HJ (declarer has turned up with 17 HCP), and playing low gives declarer a chance to misguess and play the 10. A defender holding Kxx(x) should be ready to play low smoothly when dummy to the left has Q10x(x) and declarer attacks the suit by leading low or ace and low.

Lecture Board 4

#4 Dir: West

Vul: Both

	North	
	S. J72	
	H. AKJ4	
	D. 765	
	C. J54	
West		East
S. AKQ65		S. 1098
H. 1085		H. 763
D. 843		D. KJ9
C. A2		C. KQ108
	South	
	S. 43	
	H. Q92	
	D. AQ102	
	C. 9763	

West	North	East	South
1S	Pass	2S	All Pass

Opening lead: HA (A from AK(x)) at trick one

Bidding Commentary: To even think of entering the bidding with either the North or South hand is a huge overbid.

Defensive Commentary: When partner leads an ace (from ace-king), third hand (South) normally directs the defense by signaling encouragement to ask for a continuation or discouragement to suggest a shift. In this case, even though South has the HQ, a good reason to signal encouragement, South wants a diamond shift **more** than a heart continuation. Therefore, South should play a discouraging heart at trick one, attitude, **not** suit preference. A discouraging signal says, "Partner, do me a favor, glance at the dummy and for once try to figure out which suit I want you to lead."

Defensive Commentary #2: Gazing at the clubs and diamonds in dummy, North brilliantly deduces that partner is more likely to want a diamond shift. North shifts to a high diamond at trick two. South covers whichever diamond is played from dummy and exits with the HQ. North overtakes the HQ (in case South started with only two hearts), cashes the HJ and exits with a second diamond. South collects two more diamond tricks and now the coup de grace - South leads a fourth diamond promoting North's SJ for the second undertrick.

Before automatically signaling encouragement when holding an equal honor in partner's suit, do yourself (and partner) a favor and take a look at the dummy. Then if you want a switch, discourage, **regardless** of your holding in partner's suit. This doesn't happen all that often because most of the time you do want a continuation.

Lecture Board 5

#11 Dlr: South

Vul: Neither

		North	
		S. AQ953	
		H. K64	
		D. A4	
		C. 1053	
West			East
S. 108			S. KJ72
H. Q983			H. J752
D. K862			D. 75
C. KQ7			C. A92
		South	
		S. 64	
		H. A10	
		D. QJ1093	
		C. J864	

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1S	Pass
1NT	All Pass		

Opening lead: H3

Bidding Commentary: South is not strong enough to respond 2D. A two level response by a passed hand typically shows a five card suit (no Weak Two opening) with 10-11 HCP. After the 1NT response, North has no place to go. South figures to have no more than two spades (didn't raise) and rebidding 2S hints of a death wish. 1NT is often the best contract on indifferent hands especially when you don't have to play them!

Lead Commentary: With a choice of two relatively equal strength 4 card suits, a major and a minor, lean toward the major. Opponents are more likely to hold concealed minor suit length.

Play Commentary: Before playing to trick one, declarer counts sure tricks. He has four: the AK of hearts, the DA and the SA. Then declarer decides which suit to establish for the extra needed tricks. Here it is a slam dunk to work with diamonds for three extra tricks. Diamonds are far stronger than spades, but there is another little problem - entries. When establishing a long suit in the **weaker** hand, there must be a **return** entry to that hand once the suit is established. The opening lead must be won in **dummy** (key play) and diamonds cleared by unblocking the DA (high honor from the doubleton side) and continuing the suit until the king is driven out. With the HA still in the closed hand, South must take four diamonds, two hearts and the SA.

Defensive Commentary: If South wins the opening lead in the closed hand and leads the DQ or starts on spades, neither play should be admitted in public. If West covers the DQ looking at Ax in dummy, that is another play to be forever forgotten.

Lecture Board 6

#12 Dlr: West

Vul: N-S

	North	
	S. K102	
	H. KJ98	
	D. Q74	
	C. AK6	
West		East
S. Q98765		S. -
H. 63		H. 754
D. 9		D. AKJ1082
C. J1093		C. Q875
	South	
	S. AJ43	
	H. AQ102	
	D. 653	
	C. 42	

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	3D	Dbl.
Pass	3H	Pass	4H
All Pass			

Opening lead: DA

Bidding Commentary: At “favorable” vulnerability, East should muddy the waters with a preemptive 3D overcall. The normal way to deal with three level interference after a 1NT opening bid is to play that “double” shows the strength of a raise to 3NT with Stayman implications, a 'Staymanesque' double. It is **not** a penalty double per se and if opener has length and strength in the opponents' suit he should pass. Lacking the trump length and strength to pass, opener bids a four card major if he has one.

Defensive Commentary: East cashes a second diamond and West discards a low spade. At trick three, East plays the DJ, the highest diamond he can afford, a suit preference signal if there ever was one. West ruffs and returns a spade (a mandatory return if the partnership is to endure). Down one.

When giving partner a ruff holding a known long suit (diamonds), the card you return is suit preference. If you want the higher ranking of the two suits returned (spades), return the highest diamond you can afford. If you want the lower ranking of the two suits returned, return your lowest diamond. With no strong preference for a return in either side suit, consider asking for a return in the suit that is less likely to cost a trick. Alternatively, return an ambiguous middle card telling partner you dislike (or like) both suits equally.

From Eddie Kantar's THINKING BRIDGE

