

“Drop-In” Classes \$10
Thursdays at 9:30am or 4:15pm

Sep 24: Hand evaluation beyond HCPs

Oct 1: Declarer play of the hand

Oct 8: Defense, leads, carding

Oct 15: Etiquette & Procedures

Oct 22: Cue Bids

Oct 29: No class (Ventura Regional Oct 26-Nov 1)

Nov 5: Bridge thinking skills

Nov 12: TBD

Nov 19: TBD

Discarding (**partnership agreement**)

Odd/Even: an odd card encourages and an even card discourages – a high even card shows preference for the higher of the 2 remaining suits and a low even card shows preference for the lower of the 2 remaining suits.

Discarding (**partnership agreement**)

Lavinthal: you discard from a suit you don't like
– discarding a high card shows preference for the higher of the 2 remaining suits and
discarding a low card shows preference for the lower of the 2 remaining suits.

Discarding (**partnership agreement**)

Standard: discarding a high card in a suit shows interest in that suit, discarding a low card shows disinterest.

Upside-Down: discarding a low card shows interest in that suit, discarding a high card shows disinterest.

There are others but hardly used in our club!

Key consideration for discarding

- **Be consistent:** once you've agreed a system, stick to it.
- **Don't hesitate** - hesitating while playing a card can send an unauthorized signal.

Carding – attitude to partner's lead

Standard or Upside-Down

Carding 1 – attitude to partner's lead

The contract is 4♠

Partner is on lead and plays the A♥

The dummy comes down with a singleton ♥

This is your hand, which ♥ do you play?

Clue: suit preference

♠432

♥QT82

♦AK

♣5432

Carding 2 – attitude to partner's lead

The contract is 4♠

Partner is on lead and plays the A♥

The dummy comes down with 3 small ♥s

This is your hand, which ♥ do you play? (you use standard carding)

♠432

♥QT82

♦AK

♣5432

Carding 3 – attitude to partner's lead

The contract is 4♠

Partner is on lead and plays the A♥

The dummy comes down with 3 small ♥s

- This is your hand, which ♥ do you play? (you use upside-down carding)

• ♠432 ♥QT82 ♦AK ♣5432

Leading - General Principles 1

Leading involves strategic decisions based on the auction and hand holdings, often prioritizing leading from your longest or strongest suit, leading from a suit your partner bid or leading a suit to attack declarer's strength.

Key principles include leading the 4th best card from long, unbid suits against no trump, leading the top of a sequence with touching honors (2 against suits and 3 against NT), and leading the high card from a worthless doubleton **if you have control of trumps.**

Leading – General Principles 2

- **Listen to the bidding:** The auction provides crucial information about your opponents' and partner's hands, guiding your lead choice.
- **Lead from your longest/strongest suit:** Generally, lead from your longest/strongest suit.
- **Lead partner's suit:** Lead the suit your partner has bid unless you have a void in that suit!
- **Avoid opponents' suits:** Generally, avoid leading a suit your opponents have bid.
- **Do NOT lead an unsupported Ace.**
- **Leading low from Qxx is not a good idea.**

Leading – **against NT**

- **Fourth-best lead:** Lead the 4th highest from a 4+ card suit that does not have a 3-card sequence. For example, from K9743, lead the 4.
- **Leading from sequences:** If you have an honor sequence of 3 (KQJx), lead the K. If you have an “imperfect” honor sequence (KQTx), lead the K.
- **“Coded” 9s and Ts:** The lead of a 9 or T generally promises 1 card immediately higher + another higher card. From KT9x, lead the 9. From KJT_x, lead the T.

MUD

If all other options are exhausted, lead MUD –
Middle Up Down.

How to defend better

- “Read” the dummy
- Calculate Declarer’s and Partner’s HCPs
- Calculate Declarer’s and Partner’s distribution
- 2nd hand **usually** plays low
- 3rd hand **usually** plays high
- When to cover and honor
- When to lead trump
- Preventing dummy from getting ruffs

The auction went 1NT – P – 3NT

Approx. how many HCPs does your partner have?

What do you lead?

Answers

1.	♠J86	♥KT9	♦QJ98	♣432	7	Q♦
2.	♠QJ98	♥K32	♦432	♣A32	4	Q♠
3.	♠KT86	♥KT8	♦KT8	♣JT7	4	6♠
4.	♠AT3	♥QJ987	♦T98	♣T9	7	Q♥
5.	♠AT3	♥QT864	♦T98	♣T9	8	6♥
6.	♠432	♥432	♦KQT98	♣K2	6	K♦

The auction went 1♠ - P – 4♠

Approx. how many HCPs does your partner have? (Clue: the 4♠ bidder may only have 10 HCP)

What do you lead?

Answers

1.	♠432	♥AK3	♦QJT9	♣987	8	A♥
2.	♠Q987	♥T2	♦Q987	♣987	14	10♥
3.	♠Q32	♥Q32	♦Q32	♣9876	12	9♣
4.	♠32	♥Q32	♦Q32	♣QJT98	11	Q♣
5.	♠32	♥AT98	♦KQ32	♣432	9	K♦
6.	♠32	♥A32	♦A432	♣9876	10	9♣

Ronnie's key take home message:

Before you start the game, go over your Convention Card with your partner and make sure you agree!

Next Thursday

Etiquette & Procedures