

# I/N News ... especially for you!

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## “Miss” Information on Misinformation!

*Inside this issue:*

Dear “Miss,”

At a recent tournament, my partner misexplained a bid I made. Who is responsible to tell the opponents? When is the correct time? Do we have to call the director?

Thanks,

“Miss” Leading in Chicago

Misinformation 1

It happens in all partnerships, no matter how experienced or how new. At some point in time, in the heat of battle, an opponent asks about a bid and you or your partner inadvertently give him an incorrect explanation. No one does this on purpose, but nonetheless, it is misleading and may affect the result you and/or your opponents receive on the board.

Know Your System 2

If your side is **declaring**, it is up to you (whether you are declarer or dummy) to inform the opponents **before** the opening lead is faced. You must tell them what your proper agreement is. You do not need to tell them anything if partner explained the bid correctly. You do not need to explain that you misbid. You are entitled to make a mistake so long as you do not act on partner’s explanation during the auction. (In other words, if partner explains your bid as a transfer and you meant it as natural, and bids the suit to which you presumably transferred, you may not keep correcting back to your suit with tolerance for the suit partner bid. You must assume you have not heard the explanation and raise partner’s suit with a fit and values or pass with less than enough to raise.) If it makes you feel more comfortable to have a director present when you explain the misinformation, by all means, summon one. It is not necessary in most cases. If the opponents think they were damaged by the misinformation, they will summon the director themselves.

Pro-Am 8

If you are the **defending** side, you **cannot** inform the opponents of the misinformation until **after** the hand is played. After the hand, it is your **responsibility** to do so. I know you want to “come clean” with declarer before he plays to the first trick, but by telling him about your partner’s misexplanation, you will also be telling your partner... and partner is not entitled to this information while he is on defense.

Tournament Results 10

If declarer misplays the hand because of the misinformation, he is protected by the laws of duplicate bridge and the result will be adjudicated. If partner misdefends because he believes your bid meant something other than it did, he is stuck with his result.

Tournament Schedules – Throughout

Everyone has these situations occur at one time or another. All of the directors are familiar with them and can handle the problem. If you have any more questions about these types of situations, write “Miss” Information, c/o I/N News, at the address on the back page.

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# Know Your System by Suzi Subeck

Play a system you know and understand. Be sure you and partner are both comfortable with your system. Do not feel you are too inventive to be tied down to a system. Your system represents how you communicate with partner at the table. It will give you confidence to know that he knows what is in your hand and you know what is in his. Using your system will draw one another a picture of the pattern and strength of your cards.

Don't use too complicated a system at first. Build your system as you go along. Playing with the same partner most of the time will help you understand what bids you need and what bids you don't.

You must know how to count points, how many points and how many cards in a suit you need for each bid, how many points you're denying on any non-forcing bid, and of course, what your partner is promising and denying with his bids. You need to know what bids are forcing and what ones are not.

Describe your hand as quickly and simply as possible. If you play five-card majors, and you open one heart or one spade, you have described already that your hand values to an opening bid with five or more of the suit you have opened. When partner responds, he tells you something about his hand. Say, you open one heart and partner responds one spade. What do you know? You know that he holds four or more spades and at least six points.

Bidding back and forth, you and partner should continue to describe your hands so in the end you can arrive at the best possible contract.

Bid in a trustworthy manner and be sure partner does too. Not doing this destroys partnership confidence... and what is the point of playing a system if you don't use it to your best advantage?

Do NOT try to play too many fancy conventions when you are first starting. Use simple, useful things like Blackwood and Stayman. You need those to find slams and major suit fits on your good hands. Use weak two's as a defensive tool to push the opponents around in the auction. When filling out your convention card, be sure both you and partner understand the conventions you choose to include and that you are BOTH comfortable playing them.

There is nothing worse than knowing a bid is an ALERT and not knowing what it means!

Conventions cannot replace your inherent knowledge of the game, but they can make it easier to find the right level and suit in which to play a hand.

Play mostly conventions that you will get a chance to use. You don't want to forget a convention and you don't want partner to forget it either. The best way to be sure this does not happen, is to be sure it comes up in the course of the game. The more you use your conventions, the better your

chances are to remember them and know how they work.

Simplify your use of the conventions you choose. For example, if you use Gerber, be sure you know when you are playing it. Is it on only over no-trump openings, or is it on over weak two's as well? Have clear agreements and don't abuse them. Or if you play Roman Keycard Blackwood, is it with respect to the first suit bid and raised or the second? (1♥-Pass-1♠-Pass-2♠-Pass-3♥-4NT??) It works either way, but only if you know your agreements. Be sure you know if your system is on or off over competition.

If either you or your partner are nervous about a new addition to your system, it is better not to play it. People, in general, play better when they are relaxed at the table. That said, if you can add conventions to use in club games for practice, you will get used to them before you head off to a tournament, and you will be comfortable with them by the time you arrive.

Avoid ambiguous bids! Don't drag out inventive bids at the table that could make partner go wrong. When partner knows what you're doing, his confidence builds and his game will naturally improve. When you throw him a curve, he will invariably go wrong and feel stupid. No one plays well when he feels inferior.

This applies on defense too. If you can make a play that will force partner to go right on a hand, do it! For example, you are defending against 3NT, and you know from the lead that your side has four tricks in spades and you hold the ace of hearts. If you can hold one of the spade tricks, it may be wise to cash your ace of hearts before leading another spade back to partner. That way you can be sure of beating the hand and partner does not need to guess which outside ace you hold.

Avoid disasters. If you don't get too creative and wild, you will not be in danger of going for a big number. If you stay within your system, it will be easier to do this. Using conventions properly will avoid most of these disasters. For example, using Blackwood or Gerber will keep you from bidding slams off two cashing aces. Just be sure to use your conventions correctly. Blackwood is not nearly as useful if you employ it with a void in your hand!

Sometimes it is right to "tell" and other times to "listen." If you tell partner your hand, he can place the contract properly. If he shows you his and you listen, you can do the same. All of these things will improve your partnership in the long run!

# Conventions and Terms from the ACBL Website

**Astro** – A conventional overcall of a minor suit after a strong or weak notrump, in direct or reopening position, to show a 2-suited hand. 2♣ shows ♥ and a minor suit; 2♦ shows ♠ and another suit.

**Attitude signal** — An attitude signal tells partner whether or not you like a particular suit. It can be used when you have a choice of cards to play in a suit that partner has led or when discarding in a suit. The conventional agreement is: A high card is encouraging; a low card is discouraging.

**Balanced forcing raise to 3NT** – The conventional use of a 3NT response to an opening bid of 1♥ or 1♠ to show a forcing raise with no short suit. (Partner may choose to leave the contract in 3NT or bid again.)

**Bergen raises** – A structure of major suit raises to get quickly to the three level with four-card support.

**Better minor** – A bidding style in which the better (stronger) minor suit is opened when the hand doesn't contain a five-card major suit and the minor suits are each three cards in length.

**Blackwood** – A conventional bid of 4NT after a trump suit has been agreed to ask partner to show the number of aces held: 5♣ –0 or 4; 5♦ –1; 5♥ –2; 5♠ –3. A subsequent bid of 5NT asks for the number of kings held.

**Brozel** – A conventional agreement that assigns the following meanings to overcalls of an opponent's 1NT opening bid: Double shows a one-suited hand (partner bids 2♣ to find out which suit); 2♣ shows ♥ and ♣; 2♦ shows ♥ and ♦; 2♥ shows ♥ and ♠; 2♠ shows ♠ and a minor suit (partner bids 2NT to find out which minor); 2NT shows clubs and diamonds.

**Bypassing diamonds** – The conventional agreement following an opening 1♣ bid to bypass a four-card diamond suit when holding a four-card major suit.

**Cappelletti (also called Hamilton)** - A conventional agreement that assigns the following meanings to overcalls of an opponent's 1NT opening bid: Double is for penalty; 2♣ shows a one-suited hand; 2♦ shows ♥ and ♠; 2♥ shows ♥ and a minor suit; 2♠ shows ♠ and a minor suit.

**Cheaper minor** – An artificial response at the cheapest level in a minor suit to show a weak hand. For example, after an opening bid of 2♣, a 2♦ waiting response, and a rebid of 2♥ or 2♠ by opener, 3♣ would be the cheaper minor; if opener rebids 3♣, 3♦ would be the cheaper minor.

**Checkback Stayman** – The use of 2♣ after opener's rebid of 1NT — or 3♣ after opener's rebid of 2NT — to ask about opener's major suit holdings.

**Constructive raises** – The use of an immediate raise of a major suit to the two level to show 8 to 10 points, rather than 6 to 10 points.

**Convenient club** – Another name for the bidding style in

which the longer minor suit is opened with no 5-card major suit; this term is used because opener bids 1♣ with three cards in both minors.

**Count signals (length signals)** - A count signal tells partner how many cards you have in a suit. The standard conventional agreement to show length in a suit is: high-low with an even number; low-high with an odd number.

**Cuebid** – An artificial forcing bid in a suit in which the bidder cannot wish to play: a bid in the opponents' suit or a bid to show a control in a slam-going auction.

**Cuebid as a limit raise** – Use of a cuebid of the opponent's suit following an overcall to show the values for a limit raise or better in partner's suit.

**DON'T** – A conventional agreement that assigns the following meanings to overcalls of an opponent's 1NT opening bid: Double shows a one-suited hand (usually not spades); 2♣ shows clubs and another suit; 2♦ shows diamonds and a major suit; 2♥ shows hearts and spades; 2♠ shows spades.

**DOPI** – When an opponent overcalls after a Gerber bid or a Blackwood bid, you may use DOPI: Double is no aces; Pass is one; cheapest bid is two; next cheapest bid is three and so on...

**Drury** – A conventional response of 2♣ to an opening bid of 1♥/♠ in 3rd or 4th position, asks if opener has a full opening.

**Extended Jacoby transfers** – Use of 2♠ in response to 1NT as a transfer to 3♣ when holding a weak hand with either clubs or diamonds; with diamonds, responder then bids 3♦.

**Fit-showing jump** – An agreement to use a jump shift in competitive situations to show a strong hand of at least nine cards in the two suits (partner's suit and the suit in which you jump) and invitational strength. Usually shows five cards in the suit you bid and four cards in support of partner's suit.

**Flannery** – A conventional use of a 2♦ opening bid to show four spades, five hearts and 11 to 15 points.

**Flip-flop** – The conventional use of 2NT by responder to show a preemptive raise after opener's minor suit opening has been doubled for takeout; responder's jump raise of opener's minor is then a limit raise.

**Forcing 1NT** – The conventional agreement that a response of 1NT to an opening bid of 1♥ or 1♠ is forcing for one round.

**Four-suit transfer bids** – Transfer bids into all 4 suits over an opening 1NT: 2♦ for ♥, 2♥ for ♠, 2♠ for ♣, and 2NT

*(Continued on page 4)*

for ♦.

**Fourth suit forcing and artificial** – An agreement that the bid of the fourth suit by responder is artificial and forcing—usually played as forcing to game.

**Gambling 3NT** – An opening bid of 3NT based on a long, solid minor suit rather than the more traditional 25 to 27 HCPs.

**Gerber** – A conventional agreement that following a bid of 1NT or 2NT, a jump to 4♣ asks partner for aces. Partner responds: 4♦–0 or 4; 4♥–1; 4♠–2; 4NT–3. If the partnership holds all the aces, a bid of 5♣ asks for kings.

**Grand slam force** – An agreement that a bid of 5NT asks partner to bid a grand slam with two of the top three trump honors, otherwise to bid a small slam in the agreed trump suit.

**Grand slam force after Blackwood** – An agreement that when 4NT is used as Blackwood to ask for aces, 6♣ (rather than 5NT) is used as the grand slam force unless the agreed trump suit is clubs.

**Herbert negative** – The use of the cheapest available suit response to deny strength when opener has made a strong forcing bid. Often applied after responder has initially made a waiting bid.

**Inverted minor-suit raises** – A bidding style in which a single raise of opener's minor suit is forcing for one round while a jump raise shows a weak hand. Essentially, the meaning of raises to the two level and the three level are reversed from standard practice.

**Invitational bid** – A bid that encourages partner to bid again but gives partner the option of passing with minimal values for what has been promised to date.

**Jacoby transfer bid** – A conventional response to opening 1NT bids where 2♦ shows hearts and 2♥ shows spades. Similar responses can be used over other notrump opening bids.

**Jacoby 2NT** – A response to an opening bid of 1♥/♠ that shows a forcing raise of the major suit.

**Jordan (see Truscott)**

**Jump cuebid** – An agreement to use a jump cuebid in the opponent's suit to show a hand with four card or longer support for partner's suit and at least invitational strength.

**Jump shift** – A jump one level higher than necessary in a new suit.

**Jump shift in other minor as a forcing raise** – Use of a jump raise in the other minor to show a forcing raise in opener's minor when a jump raise of opener's minor suit is used as a limit raise.

**Kantar 3NT** – A conventional opening bid to show a solid major suit with no side aces and at most one side king.

**Landy** – A conventional overcall of 2♣ after an opposing 1NT opening as a request for a takeout to a major suit. Overcaller promises at least four cards in each major and usually has five.

**Lavinthal discards** – A complicated partnership agreement with many possible variations that calls for the first discard on defense to give a suit preference signal rather than an attitude signal.

**Lead-directing double** – Without specific agreements to the contrary, a double of an opponent's conventional bid shows strength in that suit.

**Lead-directing double of 3NT** – When the opponents have voluntarily bid to 3NT and the player not on lead doubles, this double conventionally asks partner to lead one of the following suits, in order of priority: a suit bid by the opening leader; a suit, bid by the doubler; dummy's first bid suit if it wasn't rebid. When no suit has been bid, the double shows a solid suit, which can take five tricks if the opening leader can find it. Without a clue, the opening leader will tend to lead a short major suit.

**Lebensohl** – A convention to handle interference after partner opens with 1NT (variations of this convention can be used in other situations).

**Lebensohl over reverses** – A conventional agreement for handling the auction after opener makes a reverse bid.

**Leaping Michaels** – An extension of the Michaels cuebid convention used following a weak 2♥/♠ bid by the opponents. A jump to 4♣ shows at least five clubs and five cards in the unbid major. A jump to 4♦ shows at least five ♦ and five cards in the unbid major.

**Lightner double** – A conventional agreement that a double of a slam by the player not on lead requests partner to make an unusual lead, which hopefully would result in the defeat of the contract.

**Limit raise** – A style of responding to an opening bid of one-in-a-suit where a jump raise to the three level is invitational rather than forcing.

**Mathe** – A competitive conventional agreement following a strong, artificial 1♣ opening that a double shows both major suits and 1NT shows both minor suits.

**Maximal double** – A competitive double used by a player as a game try when the opponents' bids have left no bidding room to make any other form of game try.

**Michaels cuebid** – A conventional use of a direct cuebid to show a two-suited hand.

**Minor-suit Stayman** – A conventional use of the 2♠ response to 1NT as an inquiry about opener's minor suits. Opener rebids 2NT with no four-card or longer minor, rebids 3♣/3♦ with one 4-card minor suit, and rebids the longer major — 3♥/♠ — with 4 cards in both minor suits.

**MUD** – An agreement on how to lead from a suit containing three low cards — lead the middle (M) card; follow with the highest (Up) card, and finally play the lowest (Down) card — MUD.

**Namyats** – The conventional use of 4♣ to show a strong 4♥

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opening bid and 4♦ to show a strong 4♠ opening bid; as a consequence, opening bids of 4♥/♠ are weaker preemptive bids.

**Negative double** – A variation of the takeout double, used when an opponent overcalls at a low level.

**Negative doubles after 1NT** – The use of a double for takeout, rather than penalty, after a direct overcall by an opponent of an opening 1NT bid. It shows enough strength to compete and tends to show four cards in any unbid major suit.

**Negative response** – A response that denies strength when partner opens with a strong forcing bid such as 2♣.

**New minor forcing** – A conventional agreement that the bid of a new minor by responder is artificial and forcing after a 1NT (or 2NT) rebid by opener and promises invitational or better values.

**Non-forcing Stayman** – The standard form of the Stayman convention where a rebid of 2♥/♠ by responder is non-forcing.

**Ogust responses** – A method of responding to weak two-bids that asks opener about both the strength of the weak two-bid and the quality of the suit.

**Preemptive raise** – A jump raise of partner's suit with good trump support but limited defensive values, intended to make it more difficult for the opponents to find their best contract. For example, if partner's opening bid of one-of-a-suit is doubled for takeout, most partnerships would play a jump raise to the three or four level as preemptive.

**Puppet Stayman** – A variation of the Stayman convention that may be used to discover whether opener holds a four-card or a five-card major suit.

**Quantitative** – A natural, limited, non-forcing bid. For example, a raise of an opening 1NT bid to 4NT — inviting opener to bid slam but not forcing.

**Redouble** – A redouble shows 10 or more points with interest in doubling the opponents for penalty. Responder usually won't have a good fit with opener's suit.

**Responsive double** – When partner makes a takeout double and the next opponent raises opener's suit, some partnerships agree to treat a double as responsive rather than as a penalty double. The responsive double acts like a takeout double, asking partner to pick a suit.

**Reverse Drury** – A variation of the Drury convention in which opener rebids the major suit to show a sub-standard hand.

**Roman Keycard Blackwood** – A version of Blackwood that assumes five key cards: 4 aces and the king of the trump suit. It also takes into consideration the queen of the trump suit. The responses are: 5♣–0 or 3; 5♦–1 or 4; 5♥–2 (or 5) key cards without the queen of trumps; 5♠–2 (or 5) key cards and the queen of trumps.

**RONF** – An acronym for "Raise Is the Only Non Force" when

responding to a weak two-bid.

**Second negative** – A rebid by the responder to a strong forcing bid that denies strength when responder initially made a waiting bid.

**Short club** – A bidding style in which an opening bid of 1♥/♠ shows a 5-card or longer suit and an opening bid of 1♦ shows a 4-card or longer suit. This style sometimes results in an opening bid of 1♣ being made on a two-card suit (4–4–3–2 distribution).

**Smolen transfers** – A convention for ensuring that the 1NT opener declares the contract when responder is 5–4 or 6–4 in ♥/♠.

**Soloway jump shift** – A conventional agreement that a jump shift falls into 1 of 3 types of hand: a strong single-suiter; a strong hand with a fit for opener's suit; a strong, balanced hand.

**SOS redouble** – A redouble when your side has been doubled for penalty in a low-level contract. It requests partner to pick another contract. (Partnerships must be clear when the redouble is for rescue and when it's strength-showing.)

**Splinter bid** – A conventional double jump in a new suit to show a fit with partner and a singleton or void in the suit bid.

**Stayman** – A conventional response of 2♣ to an opening 1NT bid or 3♣ to an opening 2NT bid that asks whether opener has a four-card major suit.

**Step responses** – A conventional set of responses to a strong forcing bid that shows the number of controls (aces and kings) held.

**Strong artificial (conventional) 2♣** – An opening bid of 2♣ shows a strong hand (22+); used in conjunction with weak 2-bids.

**Strong two-bid** – An opening bid in a suit at the two level to show a strong hand (21 or more points); it is forcing to game unless opener rebids 2NT or rebids the original suit at the three level.

**Suit preference signals** – A suit preference signal indicates a preference for one of the two remaining suits. (It doesn't apply to the suit led or to the trump suit.) A high card shows preference for the higher ranking suit; a low card shows preference for the lower-ranking suit.

**Support double** – Used by opener to show exactly 3-card support for responder's suit following an overcall on opener's right after partner has responded in a suit. Also, opener can redouble to show 3-card support when the intervening call is a double.

**Takeout double** – A double that asks partner to bid rather than defend for penalty.

**Texas transfer bids** – A set of responses to an opening bid of 1 or 2NT where 4♦ shows 6+ ♥ and 4♥ shows 6+ ♠.

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**Trump echo** - A high-low in the trump suit is commonly used to show three or more trumps.

**Truscott 2NT (also called Jordan)** - A conventional jump to 2NT after an opponent's takeout double to show a limit raise or better in partner's suit.

**Two-way Stayman** - A variation of the Stayman convention in which a response of 2♣ is non-forcing Stayman and a response of 2♦ is game-forcing Stayman.

**Unusual notrump** - A conventional agreement that a jump overcall of 2NT over a major suit shows a two-suited hand with two five-card or longer suits. The majority of players use this bid to show both minor suits. Modern partnerships use the bid to show the two lowest ranking unbid suits.

**Unusual over unusual** - An agreement that responder will take the following action when an opponent makes a two-suited overcall, such as Michaels or unusual notrump, that takes away some of your bidding room: double is penalty-oriented; raising partner at the cheapest available level is competitive; a bid of the suit not shown by partner or the opponent's bid is competitive; a cuebid of the lower ranking of the suits shown by the opponent's bid shows the lower ranking of the other two suits and is invitational or better; a cuebid of the higher ranking of the suits shown by the opponent's bid shows the higher ranking of the other two suits and is invitational or better.

**Upside-down attitude signals** - An agreement that a low card is encouraging and a high card is discouraging. The exact opposite to standard attitude signals.

**Upside-down count signals** - An agreement that a low card followed by a higher card would show an even number of cards in the suit; a high card followed by a low card would show an odd number of cards in the suit. The exact opposite to standard count signals.

**Waiting bid** - A bid asking for a further description of partner's hand while saying nothing specific about the bidder's hand.

**Weak jump raises** - Conventional use of a jump raise of partner's suit to show a weak hand with good support.

**Weak jump shift** - The conventional use of a jump shift response to show a weak hand with a long suit.

**Weak notrump** - An opening bid of 1NT with a minimum-strength opening hand, usually 12 to 14 or 13 to 15 points.

**Weak two-bid** - The use of an opening bid of 2♦/♥/♠ as a preemptive bid, usually showing a six-card suit with 5 to 10 points.

**Wolff sign-off** - A conventional method for allowing responder to sign off in a suit at the three level after opener's 2NT rebid.

## Defensive Play by Jim O'Neil

### Opening Leads

The opening lead is the most difficult play in all of bridge. Before making any other play, the Declarer or Defender can see at least 27 cards. Yet the opening leader must select his lead looking only at 13. And the opening lead is often the most crucial play of the hand, making or breaking the contract. There are three basic types of opening leads:

1) The obvious lead. Perhaps we hold a very good suit, headed by an honor sequence, such as KQJxx. Perhaps we have no obvious lead in our own hand, but partner has bid a suit, or has made a lead-directing double.

2) The attacking, or "active lead". We have reason, from the auction, to believe that declarer can set up plenty of tricks if given a chance. The defense must set up and cash its tricks before declarer can set up and cash his. An active lead, usually an underlead of a single honor or broken honor sequence, can sometimes cost a trick; but often it is a trick that was likely to go away anyway. The only hope is to find partner with a fitting honor in the suit.

3) The safe, or "passive" lead. Perhaps opening leader has all or almost all of the defense's high cards. Sometimes declarer's only hope is that the defense breaks a suit, giving him a trick to which he was not entitled. A passive lead is designed to avoid breaking dangerous suits.

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Eau Claire Sectional, St. Bede's Conference Center

Friday, October 7

2:00 p.m. Stratified Pair/Team

7:30 p.m. Stratified Team of 2 Pairs

Saturday, October 8

9:30 a.m. Stratified Pair/Team

2:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs

7:00 p.m. Stratified Individual (Cash Prizes)

Sunday, October 9

10:00 a.m. Stratified Swiss Teams

(Stratified by Swiss Team Averaging)

For more information:

Walt Klein, tournament chairman, (715) 834-9642

Opening leader has little information to on which to base his lead; he has heard the auction and can see his own 13 cards. It is imperative that he gather helpful clues from the auction.

**Active leads:**

The following are some examples of active leads. Each of these leads carries some risk; it is possible that the lead will give away a trick. But it is more like that will lose a trick by not making an aggressive lead.

1) Dummy has shown a long side suit. Declarer's plan will likely to be to set up that suit for discards. The defense must set up and cash whatever tricks it can in the other suits before declarer can set up dummy's suit for discards.

The auction has proceeded:

South North

- 1♥ 2♣
- 2♥ 3♣
- 3♦ 3♥
- 4♥

As opening leader, we hold: ♠KJ84 ♥65 ♦JT63 ♣Q64  
While a diamond lead is probably safest, an attacking lead is called for. Surely declarer intends to draw trumps and run the Clubs to discard any Spade and Diamond losers. We can see that the Club position is favorable for declarer. Any Spade honor in partner's hand will help set up a Spade trick. The lead may give declarer an extra Spade trick, but his Spade losers are likely going away on the Clubs.

2) Declarer and dummy have a good trump fit, and each has a side suit. Declarer will probably have one of two plans: 1) Set up his own or dummy's suit for discards, or 2) Play the hand along crossruffing lines. The defense's objective should be to thwart one of these plans - 1) either set up and cash tricks in the fourth suit before declarer can set up his or dummy's suit for discards, or 2) lead trumps as much as possible to cut down on the crossruff. Opening leader must look at his own holdings in the side suits to decide which is best. When the opponents have a good fit and are sacrificing, a trump lead is often right.

The auction has proceeded:

South North

- 1♥ 1♠
- 2♣ 2NT
- 3♣ 3♥
- 4♥

As opening leader, we hold: ♠KJ84 ♥65 ♦JT63 ♣Q64

Our Spade honors are poorly placed, and the Clubs and Hearts are breaking well for declarer. Declarer may be able to set up his Clubs and/or dummy's spades with a single ruff. Any Diamond tricks may be going away if we don't go after them. A Diamond lead is best.

But, if the auction had gone:

South North

- 1♠ 2♦
- 2♥ 4♥

As opening leader, we hold: ♠KJ84 ♥65 ♦JT63 ♣Q64  
Declarer will have difficulty setting up his Spade suit or dummy's Diamond suit for discards. But he may be able to succeed by cross-ruffing. A trump lead is probably best.

3) Trumps are splitting badly for declarer. Opening leader may have trump length, or may be short and can infer that partner has length. Declarer's objective may be to draw trumps while retaining control of the hand. The best plan for the defense may to lead their longest suit. If declarer is forced to ruff one or more times, a defender may end up with more trumps than declarer. This type of defense is called a "forcing defense" - by forcing declarer to ruff, he may lose control of the hand.

The auction has proceeded:

South North

- 1♠ 2♣
- 2NT 3♠
- 4♠

As opening leader, we hold: ♠KJ84 ♥6 ♦KT763 ♣J64  
We hold a nasty surprise for declarer in the trump suit. We can infer that declarer has 5 trumps, and dummy 3. If we can force declarer to ruff a Diamond in his hand, we will have as many trumps as he does. If we can force him to ruff twice, our trumps will be longer than his, and he may well lose control of the hand. A Diamond lead stands out.

4) One defender may be short in a side suit. Opening leader may have shortness too or may have length and can infer that partner is short. In this case the defense may score extra tricks by trumping declarer's winners before he can draw trumps. For this to be successful the hand opposite the hand with shortness must be able to get in to give partner his ruff or ruffs.

The auction has proceeded:

South North

- 1NT 2♣ (Stayman)
- 2♥ 3♥
- 4♥

As opening leader, we hold: ♠7 ♥765 ♦Q742 ♣Q6542

The singleton Spade is the best lead. While it is possible that the Spade lead will help declarer Pick up the suit, it is also likely that we will be able to get one or more Spade ruffs. Partner is marked with about 10-11 points; hopefully he will be able to get in quickly and give us our ruff(s).

Same auction, we hold: ♠7 ♥A65 ♦KQ72 ♣AQ542

The singleton Spade would be a poor choice. Partner probably has a yarborough; he will never get in to give us a ruff. A Spade lead can only help declarer pick up the suit. The passive lead of a small trump is probably best.

Same auction, we hold: ♠7 ♥QJT8 ♦742 ♣Q5432

Again, the singleton Spade is a poor choice. Though partner will probably be able to get in to give us a ruff or two, we really don't want a ruff. We would be ruffing with our natural trump tricks! A Club lead is best. By forcing Declarer to ruff himself, he may lose control of the hand.

**Passive Leads:** There are times when a passive defense is called for. As opening leader, we may decide that our best strategy is to avoid opening up suits for declarer, making him start suits himself. In that case, we will look for the safest possible lead. A suit headed by a strong honor sequence (KQJ or QJT) is almost always safe. A suit bid by partner is usually safe, especially if we hold an honor in that suit. A suit in which partner has overcalled, preempted, or made a lead-directing double is almost always safe, regardless of whether we have an honor. (Hey, if it's wrong, we can always blame partner.) With no input from partner, and with no good honor sequence, some passive leads, from best to worst are:

- 1) A suit not bid by the opponents, especially with length in that suit.
- 2) If there are no unbid suits, a suit bid by dummy and not supported by declarer. It is best to be short and/or weak in that suit.
- 3) The trump suit, if you have 2 or 3 without an honor.
- 4) A long suit.
- 5) A suit headed by at least two honors.

Sometimes our choice of leads comes down to suits headed by broken honor sequences or lone honors. If we must lead away from a broken honor sequence, or an unprotected

(Continued on page 9)

**Fallfest Sectional, 660 E. Butterfield Road, Lombard**

**Friday, November 11**

10:30 a.m. Stratified Future Master Daylight Pairs

7:30 p.m. Stratified Future Master Pairs

**Saturday, November 12**

1:00 p.m. Stratified Future Master Pairs

6:30 p.m. Stratified Future Master Pairs

**Sunday, November 13**

11:00 a.m. 299er Stratified Swiss Teams

For more info,  
call Jim Kolb,  
tournament  
chairman,  
(630) 961-5750

**MAD CITY Sectional, 5454 Gunflint Trail, Madison**

**Friday, December 2**

**1:30 p.m. 299er Pairs – Stratified by Director**

**Saturday, December 3**

**9:30 a.m. 299er Pairs – Stratified by Director**

**1:30 p.m. 299er Pairs – Stratified by Director**

**(0-5 points play free if members of the ACBL)**

**For more info, Diane Vaughn, (608) 238-0851**

**ALERT: On October 1, 2005, there will be a  
Special Pro-Am to Benefit the 2006 Chicago NABC.**

Any non-life master with fewer than 500 masterpoints is eligible to play as an amateur. And **ANYONE** who meets this criteria is good enough to enter this competition! It is designed with **YOU** in mind! All you need to do is sign up. Your "pro" will be assigned by the tournament chairman.

This special event is being held at the **Darien Community Center**, at **1:00** in the afternoon. Pre-registration is **MANDATORY** on or before **September 27th please**. Entry fees are \$25.00/amateur, the proceeds from which will go toward supporting the upcoming District 13 2006 Summer Nationals.

This Pro-Am gives all novice and intermediate players a rare opportunity to play with a Chicago area "professional". The game is sectionally-rated which means more masterpoints will be given than in a regular club game.

You cannot imagine how exciting it is to play with the best players in the area. The experience affords a great learning opportunity, and one that could cost hundreds of dollars were it not for this special occasion.

After the event, you will have made a new friend who will meet you and greet you at future District 13 tournaments and events ... someone who will be approachable and can answer your bidding and play questions and discuss hands with you after the games.

The directors are donating their services. There will be lots of homemade goodies and an excellent time for all the players involved. For more information on this fun occasion or to

honor:

1) Leading away from a Queen is probably safest, especially if we also hold the Jack or Ten or even the Nine.

2) Leading away from a King is next best, again if we also hold a lower honor or high spot card.

3) Leading from a J or T is dangerous unless we hold the next lower card.

4) Leading away from an Ace is the most likely to cost a trick. Especially if we hold a lower honor. Against a suit contract, we should almost *never* underlead an Ace. (An exception: it is acceptable to underlead the Ace of trump). Leading the Ace is better than underleading it, but Aces were meant to capture the opponents' Kings and Queens, not their Fours and Twos. The following are some examples of passive leads. In each case opening leader is trying to find the safest possible lead.

1) Neither declarer nor dummy is likely to have a long suit, and/or the contract is likely to be a close one. The defenders want to avoid breaking suits for declarer; with no long suit, declarer likely has nowhere to get rid of his losers. At matchpoint pairs, passive leads are more common. The object is not to defeat the contract, but to take as many tricks as possible. So the defenders are always looking for the safest lead, to avoid letting declarer make overtricks.

The auction has proceeded:

South North

1♣ 1♥

1♠ 2NT

3NT

As opening leader, we hold: ♠KT74 ♥J6 ♦9863 ♣Q64

The contract may be a close one. It is probable that neither declarer nor dummy have a long suit. The best defense on this hand may be to force declarer to open up suits himself. Often the side which breaks a suit may lose a trick in that suit. On this hand we should choose the safest lead we can find. On this hand, the ♦9 (the unbid suit) appears best.

2) Partner is broke or nearly broke. A lead from a broken sequence or unsupported honor usually requires partner to have a fitting card in the suit. If he doesn't have one, the lead will often cost a trick.

The auction has proceeded:

South North

1NT 2♥ (transfer)

2♠ 3NT

As opening leader, we hold: ♠KJ72 ♥AQ2 ♦983 ♣KQ4

Partner might have a point ... or not. Diamonds are safe; any other lead may well cost a trick. A Diamond lead stands out.

3) Opening leader has no suit in which to attack. Sometimes opening leader would like to make an attacking lead, but his holdings in those suits make a lead of that suit inadvisable.

The auction has proceeded:

South North

1♠ 1NT

2♥ 2♠

As opening leader, we hold: ♠QT5 ♥982 ♦A83 ♣AQ74

A Heart is probably the last suit we should be leading on this auction. But leading away from an Ace, or leading a trump away from QTx is even worse. A ♥ lead is the least of evils.

Against suit contracts, we will usually be trying to set up high-card tricks fast, declarer often will have enough tricks if given time to draw trumps and set up a side suit. We will usually want to lead from strength. Against NT contracts, it is usually a race. We will be trying to set up long suits before declarer can set up his long suits. We will usually want to lead from length.

Now that we have decided which suit to lead, which card should we lead? Standard practice is:

From a holding headed by the AK, lead the K (unless it is AK doubleton - then lead the A). From an honor sequence of 3 honors, lead the top - K from KQJ, Q from QJT, J from JT9. From a broken honor sequence, 3 of 4 honors, lead the top of touching honors - K from KQT, Q from QJ9, J from JT8 or J from KJT, T from QT9. Lead the T from KT9. (Against NT, also lead the J from AJT or T from AT9). From any other holding headed by an honor, lead the 4<sup>th</sup> highest. (Or lowest from a 3-card suit). From a holding which does not include an honor, usually lead highest. Leading a low card implies an honor or a reason to want the suit returned; leading a high card

(continued on page 11)

**Tournament Results:**

Summerfest Regional, Arlington Heights, IL

Monday Evening Future Master Pairs

- 2.40 1 1 1 John Gardner - Carolyn Gardner, Arlington Hts IL  
1.80 2 Thomas Aldrich III, Palatine IL; Gordon Parks, Long Grove IL  
1.35 3 Denise Kadleck - Susan O'Connor, Chicago IL  
1.43 4 2 2 Karen Pickelsimer - Robert Pickelsimer, Oakwood Hills IL  
0.84 5 Lesley Anixter - Jan Ratliff, Highland Park IL  
0.94 3/4 Fran Smith - Mary Dandurand, Glen Ellyn IL  
0.94 3/4 Bob McDonnell - John Flershem, Palos Heights IL  
Tuesday Afternoon 299er's  
2.68 1 1 1 Shelia Sittinger - Michael Sittinger, Lombard IL  
2.01 2 2 Phyllis Goldman - Eugene Goldman, Northbrook IL  
1.52 3 3 2 Mary Dandurand - Fran Smith, Glen Ellyn IL  
1.14 4 4 3 Carole Jackson, Park Ridge IL; Mary Jo Sponseller, Minnetonka MN  
0.94 5 5 4 Frances Leavitt, Lincolnwood IL; Mary Cieslik, Park Ridge IL  
0.64 5 Patricia Blakeslee - David Blakeslee, Western Springs IL

Tuesday Evening 199er Pairs

- 2.68 1 Bryan Delfs, Pleasant Prairie WI; Daniel Goldfein, Lincolnwood IL  
2.01 2 Cindy Alpert, Glencoe IL; Lesley Anixter, Highland Park IL  
1.90 3 1 1 Scott Bieber, Wilmette IL; Louise Lane, Winnetka IL  
1.13 4 Amit Jain - Shreya Jain, Oak Brook IL  
1.43 5 2 2 Nona Rathsack - Barbara Chasoff, Park Ridge IL  
1.07 3 Barbara Morgan, Park Ridge IL; Fred Johnston, Chicago IL  
0.83 4 3 Robert Pickelsimer - Karen Pickelsimer, Oakwood Hills IL

Wednesday Afternoon 299er's

- 2.83 1 Chere Morrison, Poplar Grove IL; Rachel Campbell, Elgin IL  
2.14 2 1 Judy Olsen - Carolyn O'Brien, Lake Forest IL  
1.61 3 2 1 Harland London - Holly London, Woodridge IL  
1.20 4 3 2 Joan Blim - Evelyn Holland, Northbrook IL  
0.99 5 Diane Laforte, Hinsdale IL; Fran Smith, Glen Ellyn IL  
0.71 6 Betty Ost, Indian Head Pk IL; Rose Ann Donzelli, Lombard IL  
0.90 4 Mary Rose Smith, River Forest IL; Kate Gancer, Oak Park IL  
0.89 5 3 Daniel Cunningham, La Porte IN; Mary Walters, Oak Park IL  
0.95 4 Nance Booty - Suzann Patterson, Naperville IL

Wednesday Evening 299er's

- 2.97 1 Lawrence Thomas, Arlington Hts IL; Lynn Patterson, Lk in The Hls IL  
2.40 2 1 1 Scott Bieber, Wilmette IL; Louise Lane, Winnetka IL  
1.80 3 2 2 Bob McDonnell - John Flershem, Palos Heights IL  
1.35 4 3 Steve Oshen - Julie Oshen, Glen Ellyn IL  
1.04 5 Karl Dencker - Rajahneen Dencker, Lk In The Hls IL  
1.01 6 4 3 Robert Pickelsimer - Karen Pickelsimer, Oakwood Hills IL  
1.20 5 4 Jim Waszak, Darien IL; Francis Wren, Arlington Hts IL  
Wednesday Afternoon Future Masters

2.54 1 1 Fran Smith - Mary Dandurand, Glen Ellyn IL

- 1.91 2 2 Thomas Graff - Roger Koeppe II, Fayetteville AR  
1.43 3 3 3 Barbara Morgan, Park Ridge IL; Fred Johnston, Chicago IL  
1.07 4 4 June Gecan, Lombard IL; Dorothy Whistler, Elmhurst IL  
0.80 5 Donald Schramek, Chicago IL; Bernice Frederick, Elwood IL  
1.37 1 John Gardner - Carolyn Gardner, Arlington Hts IL  
1.03 2 Karen Pickelsimer - Robert Pickelsimer, Oakwood Hills IL

Thursday Afternoon 299er's

- 2.54 1 1 1 Nancy Kisten, Hawthorn Woods IL; Jane McCaffrey, Hoffman Estates IL  
1.91 2 2 2 Mary Dandurand - Fran Smith, Glen Ellyn IL  
1.43 3 3 3 Judy Olsen - Carolyn O'Brien, Lake Forest England  
1.07 4 4 4 Joan Jerpe - Elizabeth Fisher, Naperville IL  
0.80 5 Esther Walenga - Edward Walenga, Homewood IL  
0.76 5 Bonnie Franklin, Highland Park IL; Edward Siegel, Northbrook IL  
Friday Afternoon 299er's  
3.11 1 Donna Olson - Gladys Ulrich, Plainfield IL  
2.33 2 1 Fred Dix - James Roth, Arlington Hgts IL  
1.75 3 2 Fran Smith, Glen Ellyn IL; Ruthann McCarty, Naples FL  
1.37 4 3 1 Robert Pickelsimer - Karen Pickelsimer, Oakwood Hills IL  
0.98 5 4 Anton Vogt, US; Kristine Sbaschnig, Dearborn MI  
0.78 6 5 Diane Treslo, Rolling Meadows IL; Lisa Frese, Lake Barrington IL  
1.03 2 Karen Sarsfield, Hinsdale IL; Nona Rathsack, Park Ridge IL



West Suburban Bridge Club  
features special Newcomer  
Games every Friday night in  
Darien, IL at 7:30 p.m.

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for the I/N News, directs the  
game. For more information,  
you can reach  
Jim at 708-660-9673 .

Central States Regional  
Grand Geneva Resort & Spa  
Lake Geneva, WI  
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All single session events —  
Partners Guaranteed  
0-5 ACBL Members Play Free  
Monday at 7:30

Stratified 0-299er Pairs  
Tuesday to Saturday

Game Times:

10:00, 3:00 & 7:30

*Students 20 and Under Play Free*

*Saturday Afternoon*

Special Game Saturday  
7:30 Double Win Pair Game  
Sunday at 11:00 am

0-299 Swiss Teams, 2-Sessions  
(more points)

Special Party and Registration  
Gift for all Newcomers

For more Info,

I/N Program Chairman:

Angie Clark, 847-272-1060  
or [angieclark@comcast.net](mailto:angieclark@comcast.net)

Stars of Tomorrow Sectional  
1435 Pflugsten Rd, Northbrook  
Saturday, October 8

10:00 Stratified 299er Pairs

Stratified 49er Pairs

3:00 "Dble Win" Stratified 299ers"  
Double Win" 49er Pairs

Sunday, October 9

11:00 Stratified Swiss Teams

For information or partners,

Call Angie Clark 847-272-1060

Friday Evening 299er's

2.68 1 1 James Roth - Fred Dix, Arlington Hgts IL  
 2.01 2 2 Deborah Zelinsky, Northfield IL; Judy Cohen, Chicago IL  
 1.51 3 Carol Stibbe - Jeanette Steiner, Naperville IL  
 1.37 4 3 1 Christel Gallagher - Kathryn Lefty, Glen Ellyn IL  
 1.03 5 4 2 Robert Pickelsimer - Karen Pickelsimer, Oakwood Hills IL

Saturday Afternoon 299er's

3.53 1 1 Denyse Holt, Lincolnwood IL; Roberta Kurtz, Glenview Nas IL  
 2.65 2 2 1 Karen Sarsfield, Hinsdale IL; Nona Rathsack, Park Ridge IL  
 1.99 3 Mary Van Cleve, Toledo OH; Peter Erdman, Temperance MI  
 1.49 4 3 2 Nance Booty - Suzann Patterson, Naperville IL  
 1.24 5 Lan Tang, Naperville IL; W Harris Jr, Lombard IL  
 0.84 6 Eleanor Nuellen - James Nuellen, Hinsdale IL  
 1.19 4 3 Robert Pickelsimer - Karen Pickelsimer, Oakwood Hills IL  
 0.83 5 James Roth - Fred Dix, Arlington Hgts IL  
 0.71 6 4 Bob McDonnell - John Flershem, Palos Heights IL

Saturday Evening 299er's

2.97 1 Daniel Chamberlain - Kathryn Chamberlain, Rockford IL  
 2.66 2 1 1 James Roth - Fred Dix, Arlington Hgts IL  
 2.00 3 2 Stefan Schwimmer, Matthews NC; Dan Lease, Fremont OH  
 1.50 4 3 William White Jr, Glenview IL; Lan Tang, Naperville IL  
 1.43 5 4 2 Thomas Hurt - Mary Hurt, Lombard IL  
 1.07 6 5 3 Cyann Martin, Neenah WI; Mary Ann Romberg, New London WI  
 0.93 6 4 Gerald Tietz - Pamela Tietz, Naperville IL

Sunday Morning 299er Swiss Teams

3.11 1 1 Stefan Schwimmer, Matthews NC; Dan Lease, Fremont OH; Mark Maxwell, Moon Twp PA; Ryan Daniels, Vernon Hills IL  
 2.04 2/3 2/3 1 June Gecan; Dorothy Whistler; Anton Vogt; Kristine Sbaschnig  
 2.04 2/3 2/3 Eleanor & James Nuellen; Thomas Hurt - Mary Hurt  
 1.31 4 David Reynolds - Burton Lewis - Diana Burns; Bryan Delfs  
 1.18 4 Thomas Didelot - Jay Eggenger, Hartford WI; Dee Becker - Judie Hlavka, Racine WI

Sunday Afternoon 299er Swiss Teams

2.83 1 1 Sally Gill, Bloomingdale IL; Mary Dandurand - Fran Smith, Glen Ellyn IL; Laura Bro, Downers Grove IL  
 2.12 2 2 1 June Gecan, Lombard IL; Dorothy Whistler, Elmhurst IL; Anton Vogt, US; Kristine Sbaschnig, Dearborn MI  
 1.59 3 Ann Potterton - Nance Booty - Suzann Patterson - Mary Ondracek  
 1.19 4 Ronald & Jo Kohn; Joan Siavelis - Penny Carduff

Madison Dairyland Regional:  
 Tuesday Afternoon 299er's

2.40 1 1 1 Daniel Stone - Janet Stone, Madison WI  
 1.80 2 2 2 Tim Donovan - John Bertram, Madison WI  
 1.35 3 3 3 Harry Hammerly - Lorraine Hammerly, Lilydale MN  
 1.01 4 4 Thomas Shepro, Fitchburg WI; Mary Shepro, Madison WI  
 0.67 5/6 5/6 Nancy Meylor, Pewaukee WI; Irene Bolton, US  
 0.67 5/6 5/6 Michael French, Fond Du Lac WI; R Kirschner, Madison WI  
 0.76 4 Carol Lee - Doris Scheide, Middleton WI

Wednesday Afternoon 299er's

2.12 1 1 1 Harry Hammerly - Lorraine Hammerly, Lilydale MN  
 1.59 2 2 Alice Quam, Deerfield WI; Janet Gordon, Madison WI  
 1.10 3/4 3/4 2/3 Marvin Sherrill, Madison WI; Stephen Blitz, Fitchburg WI  
 1.10 3/4 3/4 2/3 Jerome Butler - James Hansberry, Sun Prairie WI  
 I/N Pairs  
 1.84 1 Jane Fisher, Independence MO; Carl Johnson, Madison WI  
 1.38 2 Edith Halls, Fitchburg WI; Joanne Park, Waunakee WI

Thursday Afternoon 299er's

2.26 1 1 1 Sue Greenberg, Byron MN; Judith Harris, Rochester MN  
 1.49 2/3 2/3 2/3 Daniel Stone - Janet Stone, Madison WI  
 1.49 2/3 2/3 2/3 Jim Mulbrandon, Verona WI; Victor Johnson, Evansville WI  
 0.95 4 4 Tim Donovan, Madison WI; Julie O'Gara, Fitchburg WI  
 299er Pairs  
 1.98 1 Cyann Martin, Neenah WI; Shirley Adams, Appleton WI  
 1.49 2 Grace Hiles, Madison WI; Marie Peterson, Mount Horeb WI  
 0.98 3/4 Irene Bolton, US; L Hardy, Waukesha WI  
 0.98 3/4 Jerome Butler - James Hansberry, Sun Prairie WI

(Continued from page 9)

implies no interest in the suit.

Summary of Opening Leads – # cards headed by Lead

2 AK A  
 3 or more AK K vs suits, 4<sup>th</sup> best vs NT  
 any AKQ K  
 3 or 4 AKJ K vs suits, 4<sup>th</sup> best vs NT or more AKJ K  
 any KQJ, KQT K  
 2 or 3 KQ K  
 4 or more KQx K vs. suits, 4<sup>th</sup> best vs. NT

any KJT J  
 any KT9 T  
 any QJT, QJ9 Q  
 2 or 3 QJ Q  
 4 or more QJx 4<sup>th</sup> best  
 any QT9 T  
 any JT9, JT8 J  
 2 or 3 JT J  
 4 or more JTx 4<sup>th</sup> best

any T98, T97 T  
 2 or 3 T9 T  
 4 or more T9x T or 4<sup>th</sup> best  
 any AQJ A vs. suits, Q vs NT  
 any AJT A vs. suits, J vs. NT  
 any AT9 A vs. suits, T vs. NT  
 any AQT, AQx, AJx A vs. suits, 4<sup>th</sup> best vs. NT  
 2 Kx, Qx, Jx Top  
 3 or more

KJx, KTx, QTx, Kx, Qx, Jx, Tx 4<sup>th</sup> best  
 any x Top or 4<sup>th</sup> best  
 RHO opens 1NT, and LHO raises to 3NT. What do you lead? Why?

- 1) ♠ - AK2 ♥ - 74 ♦ - Q9643 ♣ - 864
- 2) ♠ - AQ2 ♥ - 987 ♦ - KJ93 ♣ - AJ4
- 3) ♠ - QJ752 ♥ - 74 ♦ - K73 ♣ - Q64
- 4) ♠ - 2 ♥ - 874 ♦ - J87632 ♣ - 643

The auction has proceeded:

RHO LHO

1♠ 2♦  
 2♥ 4♥

What do you lead? Why?

- 5) ♠ - 762 ♥ - 874 ♦ - KJ2 ♣ - K932

(Continued on page 12)

(Opening Leads, Continued from page 11)

6) ♠ - KJ97 ♥ - 874 ♦ - 42 ♣ - A753

The auction has proceeded:

RHO LHO

1♠ 2♠

4♠

What do you lead? Why?

7) ♠ - Q32 ♥ - K642 ♦ - J5 ♣ - QT76

8) ♠ - 987 ♥ - QT43 ♦ - 4 ♣ - 87532

9) ♠ - AK7 ♥ - JT863 ♦ - 8 ♣ - KJ53

10) ♠ - KT74 ♥ - 98742 ♦ - 4 ♣ - A73

Answers to Opening Leads, Hands 1-10:

1. The ♦4. Save your ♠AK as entries for the long Diamonds.

2. The ♥9. Partner has no points. Other leads may cost a trick.

3. The ♠5. Don't lead the Q from QJ without the T or 9.

4. The Spade 2. Partner has our side's points; he also has long Spades. We should try to set up his suit. It is unlikely we can set up our Diamonds and get in to cash them.

5. The Club 2. Declarer can probably draw trumps and set up his Spades or dummy's Diamonds. Both suits are breaking, and the honors are favorably placed for declarer. We must get our Club tricks quickly, before they go away.

6. The Heart 8. On this hand, Declarer will have more difficulty setting up either suit for discards. But he may be able to crossruff. Lead a trump to cut down on his ruffing tricks.

7. The ♣6. There is no attractive lead. A club is safest, and any Club honor in partner's hand will help set up tricks.

8. The ♦4. Partner may be able to get in and give us a ruff.

9 The ♥J. It is unlikely that partner has an entry to give us a diamond Ruff. Don't help declarer pick up partner's J or Q.

10. The ♥9. Partner may have an entry to give us a ruff, but do we want a ruff? We may be ruffing with a natural trump trick. We may be able to "force" Declarer in Hearts. If he has only 5 trumps, and has to ruff hearts

twice, we will end up with more trumps than Declarer.

There are other lead conventions which have gained in popularity. You may not wish to use them, but be aware that others do:

1) A from A-K (vs. suits)

Using standard methods, the lead of a K could be from A-K or K-Q. Opening leader's partner can't be sure which, unless he or Dummy has the A or Q. (Holding Jxx, he won't know whether to encourage or not.) By leading the A from A-K, opening leader's partner knows the K is from KQ. He assume the Ace is from A-K, since A from A-empty is a poor lead.

2) Third and Fifth (usually vs. suits, sometimes vs. NT also)

Using standard methods (i.e., fourth-best leads), the lead of third-best from a 3-card suit may be difficult for partner to read. By leading third- or fifth-best (partner can usually tell which), this ambiguity is resolved, though in rare instances, the third highest from a 4-card suit can cost a trick.

3) "Coded" 10s and 9s. (usually vs. NT, sometimes vs. suits also)

Using this convention, the lead of a Jack denies a higher honor in the suit; the lead of a Ten or Nine shows 0 or 2 higher honors in the suit. (The Ten shows AJT, KJT or T; the Nine shows AT9, KT9, QT9 or 9 - some pairs also lead the 9 from KJ9). In standard methods, the lead of a Jack could be from JTxx or KJTxx; the Ten could be from T9xx or KT9x - Partner will be often be unsure which. When he gets in he often won't whether to return the suit or not. Playing Coded 10s and 9s, this ambiguity is resolved; when a Jack is led, partner knows Opening leader does not have a higher honor; when a Ten or Nine is led, partner will generally assume opening leader has 2 higher - this ambiguity is usually resolved at trick One. The main drawback to this convention is that it often helps declarer read the situation..

**Declarer should always ask the opponents what their defensive carding agreements are.**