

NEGATIVE DOUBLES 1.

Points to Remember in Competitive Auctions

- Overcalls by partner are NON-FORCING! They offer a good lead directing 5+ card suit with 8-15 HCPs. If partner overcalls in a minor, they either have NO MAJOR SUIT or they are not strong enough to start with a double. Do not try to rescue partner. Pass partner's overcall, unless interested in game, or need to compete using L.T.C. Bidding a new suit after partner's overcall is constructive! Cue bidding opponent's suit, asks "How good was the overcall"?
- Takeout X's by partner will *usually* have at least 3 cards in the other suits but with 16+ HCPs the X could have any shape. Double of a major will *USUALLY but not always* have FOUR of the other major. Prefer to overcall with 5, if fewer than 16 pts.

Despite being described by Marty Bergen as the **most important convention in modern bridge** ("I would rather give up Stayman"), Negative Doubles are open to so many interpretations that no two players agree on exactly how to play them.

Although they are similar to Takeout Doubles, their main differences are as follows

TAKEOUT DOUBLE	NEGATIVE DOUBLE
An opponent opened	Partner opened
X is made by the overcalling side	The X is made by responder
Opener's suit is doubled	Overcaller's suit is doubled
11+ HCPs required (opening values)	6+ HCPs (responding values)
Interest in the other three suits	Interest is primarily in the majors

The biggest debate occurs after two minors have been bid. e.g.

S W N
1♣ 1♦ X

or
1♦ 2♣ X

Does the Negative Double show ONE or BOTH majors? MORE LATER!

It is much easier when a major suit has been bid, e.g.

S W N
1♣ 1♥ X In this sequence the X shows precisely FOUR of the other major (6+ HCPs)
1♣ 1♥ 1♠ Bidding the other major guarantees FIVE+ spades (still 6+HCPs)

1♥ 2♣ X shows, four spades, or five spades without the high card strength to bid them naturally.
1♥ 2♣ 2♠ is a responder's reverse, *forcing partner to the 3 level* and showing FIVE+ spades with 12ish pts.

Three hands from Monday's duplicate - 7th January

NORTH		9
♠ 4		
♥ AK92		
♦ A98742		
♣ Q3		
WEST	EAST	
♠ AQ763	♠ 1052	4♥ by South
♥ 76	♥ QJ5	
♦ KJ6	♦ Q1053	
♣ 974	♣ 1062	
SOUTH		
♠ KJ98		
♥ 10843		
♦ -		
♣ AKJ85		

S W N E
1♣ 1♠ X P
2♥ P *4♥

*A fit and opening values

NORTH		3
♠ Q82		
♥ 5432		
♦ K102		
♣ K87		
WEST	EAST	
♠ AK964	♠ 753	3♥ by South
♥ J6	♥ K97	
♦ 753	♦ QJ	
♣ A54	♣ Q10963	
SOUTH		
♠ J10		
♥ AQ108		
♦ A9864		
♣ J2		

S W N E
1♦ 1♠ X 2♠
*3♥ P P P

*Answering a question. NOT a reverse.

NORTH		8
♠ A		
♥ A1094		
♦ 9654		
♣ J965		
WEST	EAST	
♠ Q84	♠ K1052	3♥ by South
♥ 76	♥ J83	
♦ 32	♦ A1087	
♣ AKQ743	♣ 82	
SOUTH		
♠ J9763		
♥ KQ52		
♦ KQJ		
♣ 10		

S W N E
1♠ 2♣ X P
2♥ P 3♥ P

*P = *6 loser but no aces.

NEGATIVE DOUBLES 2.

PARTNER OPENS THE BIDDING - YOU HOLD A MAJOR SUIT - OPPONENTS INTERFERE

USING NEGATIVE DOUBLES after a MAJOR suit has been bid. (By opponents or partner.)

At the 1 LEVEL

S	W	N		
1♦	1♥	X	=	6+ pts. - FOUR spades (4 of the <i>other</i> major)
1♦	1♥	1♠	=	6+ pts. - FIVE spades (Using opponents overcall to give more clarity)

1♦	1♠	X	=	6+ pts. - FOUR hearts (or FIVE hearts but insufficient HCPS to bid 2♥)
1♦	1♠	2♥	=	10+ pts.- FIVE hearts (Remember, this will force partner to 3♦)

1♥	X	XX	=	6+ pts. - FOUR spades (4 of the <i>other</i> major)
1♥	X	1♠	=	6+ pts. - FIVE spades (Using opponents overcall to give more clarity)

1♥	1♠	X	=	6+ pts. - BOTH minors (Happy for partner to rebid 2♥ if s/he cannot support)
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At the 2 LEVEL

1♠	2♥	X	=	8+ pts. - BOTH minors (Happy for partner to rebid 2♠ if s/he cannot support)
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1♥	2♣	X	=	8+ pts - FOUR spades (or FIVE spades but insufficient HCPS to bid 2♠)
1♥	X	2♣/♦	=	8+ pts - FIVE of suit (Some support for partner's opening suit. <i>Not four spades.</i>)

USING NEGATIVE DOUBLES after NO MAJOR suit has been bid. (By opponents or partner.)

At the 1 LEVEL

S	W	N		
1♣	1♦	X	=	6+ pts. - BOTH majors.
1♣	1♦	1♥	=	6+ pts. - FOUR or FIVE hearts. (I only have one major.)

1♦	X	XX	=	6+ pts. - BOTH majors.
1♦	X	1♥	=	6+ pts. - FOUR or FIVE card suit. (I only have one major.)

At the 2 LEVEL

1♦	2♣	X	=	8+ pts. - At least one major (could be 5 cards but not strong enough to bid 2)
1♦	2♣	2♥/♠	=	10+ pts. - FIVE card suit (Remember, this will force partner to 3♦)

Now all you have to decide, is what to do over these sequences.

S	W	N		
1♣	1NT	?	=	?
1♥	1NT	?	=	?

This IS a partnership game and you do need to discuss with partner what most off your bids mean. However, there is a limit to how much we can remember and with no regular partner, do not worry too much about errors of interpretation. If opponents ask the meaning of partner's double, DO NOT guess or say how you interpret the 'X' or bid. Admit that you have forgotten or that you have **no partnership agreement!**

NEGATIVE DOUBLES 3. (Examples)

USING NEGATIVE DOUBLES after a MAJOR suit has been bid. (By opponents or partner.)

At the 1 LEVEL

S	W	N		
1♦	1♥	(X)	=	6+ pts. - FOUR spades
1♦	1♥	(1♠)	=	6+ pts. - FIVE spades

X

NORTH	NORTH
♠ AJ92 ♥ K9 ♦ Q32 ♣ 852	♠ 10952 ♥ 953 ♦ KQ32 ♣ J2

1♠

NORTH	NORTH
♠ QJ952 ♥ K9 ♦ AK32 ♣ 85	♠ KJ952 ♥ 9532 ♦ Q32 ♣ 8

1♦	1♠	(X)	=	6+ pts. - FOUR hearts
1♦	1♠	(2♥)	=	10+ pts. - FIVE hearts

X

♠ 43 ♥ KJ74 ♦ QJ32 ♣ 852	♠ 1095 ♥ AK43 ♦ KQ3 ♣ A98
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2♥

♠ A ♥ K8653 ♦ J932 ♣ K52	♠ K3 ♥ K8653 ♦ Q32 ♣ A52
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1♥	X	(XX)	=	6+ pts. - FOUR spades
1♥	X	(1♠)	=	6+ pts. - FIVE spades

XX

♠ A743 ♥ K7 ♦ 63 ♣ J852	♠ AK74 ♥ K73 ♦ 63 ♣ A98
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1♠

♠ K8653 ♥ 743 ♦ J3 ♣ K52	♠ KQJ65 ♥ K8 ♦ J32 ♣ A52
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1♥	1♠	(X)	=	6+ pts. - BOTH minors
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X

♠ 4 ♥ K7 ♦ K8763 ♣ 109752

♠ 74 ♥ K73 ♦ KQ83 ♣ A982

At the 2 LEVEL

1♠	2♥	(X)	=	8+ pts. - BOTH minors
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1♥	2♣	(X)	=	8+ pts - FOUR spades
1♥	X	(2♣/♦)	=	8+ pts - FIVE of suit

X

♠ A743 ♥ K7 ♦ 10632 ♣ J8	♠ AK74 ♥ K73 ♦ 63 ♣ A98
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2♣ 2♦

♠ K87 ♥ J43 ♦ J3 ♣ K9852	♠ 95 ♥ K82 ♦ AJ832 ♣ Q52
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USING NEGATIVE DOUBLES when NO MAJOR suit has been bid. (By opponents or partner.)

At the 1 LEVEL

S	W	N		
1♣	1♦	(X)	=	6+ pts. - BOTH majors.
1♣	1♦	(1♥)	=	6+ pts. - FOUR or FIVE hearts.

XX

♠ A743 ♥ K965 ♦ 6 ♣ J852	♠ AK74 ♥ K732 ♦ 63 ♣ A98
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1♥

♠ 74 ♥ K1043 ♦ J6 ♣ K9852	♠ 743 ♥ KJ432 ♦ J63 ♣ A5
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1♦	X	(XX)	=	6+ pts. - BOTH majors.
1♦	X	(1♠)	=	6+ pts. - FOUR or FIVE spades.

XX

♠ A743 ♥ K965 ♦ 6 ♣ J852	♠ AK74 ♥ K732 ♦ 63 ♣ A98
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1♠

♠ K1074 ♥ 43 ♦ J63 ♣ K982	♠ KJ743 ♥ 432 ♦ J63 ♣ A5
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At the 2 LEVEL

1♦	2♣	(X)	=	8+ pts. - At least one major.
1♦	2♣	(2♥/♠)	=	10+ pts. - FIVE card suit.

NORTH

♠ Q8 ♥ KJ742 ♦ Q86 ♣ 985

NORTH

AJ985 QJ7 Q86 98

THINK AHEAD! What will you do if there is NO FIT?

S	W	N	E
1♦	2♣	X	P
2♠	P	3♦	

S	W	N	E
1♦	2♣	2♠	P
3♦			

SOUTH

♠ A743 ♥ K9 ♦ AK932 ♣ 65

SOUTH

A7 K943 AK932 65

AROUND THE CLUBS

♠ 1032
♥ 9
♦ A1095
♣ K10543

WEST EAST

♠ QJ76
♥ J52
♦ KQJ42
♣ 2

4♥
by
South

♠ K98
♥ Q1083
♦ 873
♣ J98

♠ A54
♥ AK764
♦ 6
♣ AQ76

DEALER - South

Board 20. Chronicle Cups Qualifier

A REOPENING DOUBLE or 2nd Suit?

♦ **K LEAD** Disaster ensued when south foolishly rebid the 5 card heart suit. The better action, even without four of the other major is to make a re-opening double. (OR to jump in clubs.)

'X' invites partner to bid their best suit even if they are weak.

Why? A singleton in the overcallers suit and a 17 count!!

Three pairs made 12 tricks in clubs.

S	W	N	E	S	W	N	E
1♥	2♦	P	P	1♥	2♦	P	P
2♥	P	P		3♣	P	5♣	P

Bidding at the table?!

Slightly better?!

TIP - DO NOT rebid FIVE card suits after responder has passed!

DEALER - North

♠ A109853
♥ A9
♦ A109
♣ A5

WEST EAST

♠ KQ6
♥ J6
♦ QJ52
♣ K1083

4♥
by
South

♠ J742
♥ 1042
♦ K7
♣ J942

♠ -
♥ KQ8753
♦ 8643
♣ Q76

A difficult hand because there are different options available.

You might decide to establish the spade suit by ruffing.

You have the entries and *can* make 12 tricks if you go for this option - IF you get the timing right. **Try it on Bridge Solver!**

OR

If you treat the south hand as the master hand and count losers.

No spade losers, no heart losers, 3 obvious diamond losers and 2 club losers.

There is one surplus winner (♠A)

but what should you throw on ♠A? A club or a diamond?

Initially it looks like throwing a club would be best BUT without a trump lead, there is only ONE club loser. The other club can be ruffed.

You would still have that club loser if you threw a club on ♠A, so throw ♦3

You now have ONE club loser and TWO diamond losers. Contract made.

Kempson Vases Qualifier

N	W	S	E
1♠	P	2♥	P
2NT	P	4♥	

Bidding at the table

Trick 1.

Win ♠A, throwing a diamond.

Trick 2 & 3.

Cash ♣A and lead ♣5 (on a good day ♣K will be with east.)

Trick 4.

Win whatever is led (♥A if trumps are led.)

Trick 5.

Ruff a spade and lead your last club. Ruff in dummy!

Trick 6.

Back to hand with another spade ruff. Draw trumps

♠ 764
♥ 97643
♦ 8
♣ KQ63

WEST EAST

-
KQ
AKQ9432
J1072

3NT
by
west

♠ AQ532
♥ 85
♦ 1076
♣ A84

♠ KJ1098
♥ AJ102
♦ J5
♣ 95

DEALER - South

GAMBLING 3NT

S	W	N	E
P	3NT		

Not quite the standard Acoll bid promising 7 of a minor with A, K, Q, AND J
The bid promises NOTHING outside the long minor.

IF responder can NOT stop the other three suits.

responder MUST bid 4♣. Opener obviously corrects to 4♦ on this hand.

On this hand, east SHOULD have bid 4♣.

E/W were fortunate that west could stop the heart suit.

AROUND THE CLUBS

Board 8 Cramlington.

		♠ QJ3		
		♥ J10		
		♦ QJ93		
		♣ K1092		
WEST			EAST	
♠ 1075	3NT by South	♠ A62	♠ A62	
♥ 9742		♥ A853	♥ A853	
♦ K10654		♦ 82	♦ 82	
♣ 6		♣ J874	♣ J874	
		♠ K984		
		♥ KQ6		
		♦ A7		
		♣ AQ53		

S	W	N	E	Only two pairs made 11 tricks for a shared top. (All on the play of one defensive error.)
1♠	P	2♣	P	
3NT = 17/18				

Cover an Honour with an Honour (**OR NOT?**)

♦5 LEAD - Standard 4th highest lead is won by ♦Q in dummy.
♣10 led from dummy. What should east play?

♣4

DO NOT cover touching honours!

(If declarer follows with ♣9 (cover with ♣J)

Board 10 Cramlington.

		♠ A832		
		♥ 97		
		♦ 109543		
		♣ A4		
WEST			EAST	
♠ K10	5♠ by South	♠ 94	♠ 94	
♥ QJ2		♥ 1054	♥ 1054	
♦ KQJ2		♦ 876	♦ 876	
♣ QJ95		♣ K8632	♣ K8632	
		♠ QJ765		
		♥ AK863		
		♦ A		
		♣ 107		

S	W	N	E	No pair bid to 6♠
1♠	P/1NT/X	3♠	P	Only three pairs bid game!
4♠	P	P	P	One of the three only made 12 tricks!

♦K LEAD

After a 1NT overcall, declarer's analysis is: East has VERY little!

After a X, declarer's analysis is: West probably has 4 hearts!

After a pass, the play, although less certain, is the same.

SOUTH is the Masterhand - DIAMONDS ARE IRRELEVANT!

DO NOT even think about ruffing one of north's diamonds!

Finesse for ♠K. Draw trumps, and then play to **ESTABLISH** a heart winner, on which you throw the losing club in north!

Board 14 Cramlington.

		♠ 93		
		♥ AQJ1098		
		♦ J9		
		♣ 963		
WEST			EAST	
♠ AK54	5♣ by South	♠ QJ10762	♠ QJ10762	
♥ 54		♥ K762	♥ K762	
♦ Q87432		♦ K5	♦ K5	
♣ K		♣ J	♣ J	
		♠ 8		
		♥ 3		
		♦ A106		
		♣ AQ1087542		

S	W	N	E	5♠ is a good save and one pair bid on to 6♠X for a 50% score.
1♣	X/1♦	1♥	1♠	
3♣	3♠	4♣	4♠	
5♣	P	P	P	

♠A LEAD

Declarer's analysis is:

1 obvious spade loser, 1 slow diamond loser, and maybe 1 trump loser.

Standard ♠A lead wins.

At trick 2, ♠K is ruffed.

Club ace is cashed felling ♣K & ♣J, so there are no trump losers.

With ♦A still guarding the diamond losers, it is easy to set up heart winners.

If you take a simple finesse to establish hearts 11 tricks roll in.

If you opt for the ruffing finesse you make 12 tricks

WHAT TO PLAY WHEN DEFENDING

♠ J95
 ♥ AJ43
 ♦ 105
 ♣ AJ74
 ♠ AK2
 ♥ Q109765
 ♦ 87
 ♣ K3
 ♠ Q102
 ♥ 8
 ♦ AKQ962
 ♣ 1065

4♦
by
South

S	W	N	E
1♦	1♥	2NT	P
4♦ ?	P	P	P

'Bridge Club Live' auction

S	W	N	E
1♦	1♥	2NT	P
3♦	P	3NT	P

More sensible auction!

COVER AN HONOUR WITH AN HONOUR

In mid game, declarer leads ♣10. Ask yourself "What will happen if I duck?"

Well it is likely that partner's ♣Q will win.

But when declarer leads another club, your king will fall and declarer's ♣A AND ♣J will win. Notice the difference if you cover ♣10 with ♣K immediately.

Please note that there are exceptions to the "2nd hand plays low" mantra.

♣ AJ6		
♣ K95	3NT by S	♣ 1087
		♣ Q432

Declarer leads ♣Q.
West must cover with ♣K for the defence to make a trick.

	♣ 10752
♣ J3	? by S
	♣ 9 led

With Jx in 2nd position, it would be silly not to use ♣J (UNLESS you desperately needed partner on lead)

	♣ AJ94	
♣ KQ3	4♥ by S	♣ 10752
		♣ 86

Against a suit contract, you will never make a trick if you play low when declarer leads ♣8 to ♣J because the 3rd round of clubs will be ruffed.

	♣ Q6	
♣ 109743	3NT by S	♣ KJ8
		♣ A52

West leads ♣10.
Declarer ducks in dummy.
East must win ♣J AND return ♣K.

UNBLOCKING In 3rd position

This simply means getting your high cards out of the way!

Allowing partner to cash a long suit

♣Q LEAD from THREE in a near sequence.
Declarer ducks ♣Q, then takes ♣A after the ♣J continuation. East **MUST** throw/unblock ♣K !!

♠ K74		♠ Q83
♥ Q74		♥ A8
♦ KJ1086		♦ Q9732
♣ 104		♣ K65
♠ J106	3NT by S	
♥ J962		
♦ -		
♣ QJ9873		
♠ A952		
♥ K1053		
♦ A54		
♣ A2		

♠ J865		
♥ 4		
♦ KQ4		
♣ K9872		
WEST		EAST
♠ K	4♠ by South	♠ Q43
♥ Q8632		♥ 10975
♦ A653		♦ 92
♣ Q65		♣ AJ43
		♠ A10972
		♥ AKJ
		♦ J1087
		♣ 10

S	W	N	E
1♠	X	4♠	P
P			

I watched this being played on Monday!
Cover an Honour with an Honour (OR NOT?)

♥3 LEAD - Poor, losing to ♥J, but nothing works well!
Eventually, declarer gets to dummy and leads ♠J

*NEVER PLAY QUEEN OF TRUMPS!

Declarer was tempting you, fishing for the queen, and if you are CAUGHT, your side will not even make ONE trick in the trump suit!!!

	♥ A!0xx	
♥ QJx	4♥ by S	♥ xx
	♥ K9xx	

*EXCEPTION - When you hold QJx and there is only one higher honour in dummy

COVER AN HONOUR WITH AN HONOUR!?

♠ K72	♠ AQ943	♠ 1065
♥ 873	♥ J9	♥ AQ62
♦ 109753	♦ 2	♦ Q84
♣ 105	♣ J9743	♣ AKQ
	♠ J8	
	♥ K1054	
	♦ AKJ6	
	♣ 862	

Brunton

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

♣10 LEAD

East's 1st double of 2♥ is usually lead directing, but when east doubles a 2nd time, this must be a 15+ penalty double. West with only 3 pts. takes out the double to 3♦ and thankfully north bids on to an unmakeable contract.

OF COURSE YOU COVER!

Three clubs are cashed followed by ♥A.

Declarer wins the heart continuation with ♥K, and leads ♠J.

IF west does not cover, declarer makes the contract - and shouldn't!

West MUST cover!

♠ 9532	♠ AQJ	♠ 876
♥ A1094	♥ 6532	♥ K87
♦ 1086	♦ QJ9	♦ K54
♣ J9	♣ K74	♣ Q1085
	♠ K104	
	♥ QJ	
	♦ A732	
	♣ A632	

S	W	N	E
1NT	P	3NT	

♥4 LEAD

No sequences or any other reason not to lead 4th highest when you have two honours in the suit.

DON'T COVER TOUCHING HONOURS

E/W take the 1st four heart tricks. West switches to ♠5 won in dummy with ♣K.

Now ♦Q is played. East must NOT cover. If you do, west's ♦10 is trapped by north's ♦J9 and a finesse will bring in the contract. After ducking once, when north plays the ♦J, you can POUNCE, setting up a winner for west.

♠ J64	♠ A8753	♠ K109
♥ K52	♥ AJ43	♥ 1086
♦ A10863	♦ Q5	♦ J94
♣ 96	♣ Q3	♣ K742
	♠ Q2	
	♥ Q97	
	♦ K72	
	♣ AJ1085	

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

♦6 LEAD

North transfers to show five spades, and then bids 3♥ to show a four card heart suit with enough points for game.

EAST MUST DECIDE IN CLUBS. WEST MUST DECIDE IN HEARTS

Declarer plays ♦Q which wins. ♣Q is next. IF you cover, declarer makes 5 clubs, 2 hearts, 1 spade, 1 diamond.

Declarer can never catch your ♣K so keep ducking. - Now he tries the ♥Q. IF west doesn't cover with ♥K, declarer makes 4 hearts and the contract. On best defence, only 7 tricks are possible.

♠ Q52	♠ A1083	♠ 64
♥ AK864	♥ J3	♥ 1075
♦ 82	♦ KJ105	♦ 976
♣ 843	♣ K65	♣ AJ1072
	♠ KJ97	
	♥ Q92	
	♦ AQ43	
	♣ Q9	

S	W	N	E
1NT	P	2C	P
2S	P	3S	P
4S			

♥A LEAD

Stayman and then an invitational 3♠ is raised to 4♠ on south's 14 count.

DECLARER IS FISHING! DON'T BE CAUGHT!

After cashing ♥A & ♥K, east plays ♥5 and ♥7 (showing three.) West switches to ♦8, won by south's ♦A. Now ♠J is led.

(Declarer is trying to find your ♠Q. Partner has only 2 trumps. If you don't play ♠5 as smooth as silk you have given declarer the contract!

As soon as dummy is faced, decide which spade you are going to play!!

THROWING AN HONOUR - ON KING LEADS AGAINST NTs

ALL 'Top of Sequence' leads against NT contracts should be from at least THREE touching cards headed by an honour and they ALWAYS guarantee the card *immediately* beneath the honour that has been led.

e.g. 1098x QJ10x or AJ109 (an internal sequence) or at worst - a 'near sequence' i.e. J108x.

When the lead is from a KING it promises either KQJx or at worst KQ10x (From KQ854 simply lead 4th highest)

KING LEADS against 'no trump' contracts ARE SPECIAL!

So what should you do, when partner leads a KING against a NO TRUMP contract?

Partner leads ♥K

♠ J53	♠ AQ86	
♥ <u>KQ1094</u>	♥ 83	
♦ 862	♦ AQJ	
♣ K7	♣ Q1084	
		You
		♠ K92
		♥ J72
		♦ 109743
		♣ 63

A

You WANT partner to continue!
Which card should you play J, 7 or 2?

Would it be an attitude signal or is it count?
Would an encouraging 7 be best here?

Partner leads ♥K

♠ J53	♠ AQ86	
♥ <u>KQ1094</u>	♥ 83	
♦ 862	♦ AQJ	
♣ K7	♣ Q1084	
		You
		♠ K92
		♥ 762
		♦ 109743
		♣ 63

B

You DO NOT WANT partner to continue!
Which card should you play 7, 6 or 2?
Would it be an attitude signal or is it count?
On this hand, if west continues, declarer would make lots of tricks! Would a discouraging 2 be best here?

Partner leads ♥K

	♥ A83	
♥ <u>KQ1094</u>		You
		♥ 762
	♥ J5	

C

SHOULD partner continue?
Which card should you play 7, 6 or 2?
A discouraging 2 would not work here because a continuation of the ♥Q would be best for the defence.

Partner leads ♥K

	♥ A83	
♥ <u>KQ1094</u>		You
		♥ 72
	♥ J65	

D

How does partner KNOW whether to continue?
Which card should you play 7, or 2, and WHY?
Your card should simply give information that reveals whether partner should continue or not!

THE SIMPLE SOLUTION

When you are defending a NO TRUMP contract and partner leads a king, you are being instructed to throw any honour card you hold in that suit, or, without an honour, you must show count.

In 'A', Throw the ♥J! Knowing that declarer doesn't have the jack, west can continue the suit in safety.

In 'B' Play the ♥2. With no honour, give a count signal (not attitude). Partner will know a switch is required.

In 'C' Play ♥2. With no honour, give a count signal (not attitude). Partner, will know that a continuation of the ♥Q will drop the now singleton jack.

In 'D' Play ♥7, a count signal telling west that declarer has three hearts, and that he must not continue the suit.

THROWING AN HONOUR - ON KING LEADS AGAINST NTs

♥ 83
♥ KQ1054 **E** ♥ A62
♥ J97

In 'E', PLAY ♥A
You must immediately throw ♥A.
If you play any other card, **partner will switch**,
thinking that the layout is something like this - -

♥ 83
 ♥ 962
♥ AJ7

♥ A83
♥ KQ1054 **F** ♥ J62
♥ 97

In 'F', PLAY ♥J
If you play any other card, **partner will switch**,
thinking that the layout is something like this - -

♥ A83
 ♥ 62
♥ J97

♥ J83
♥ KQ1094 **G** ♥ 752
♥ A6

In 'G', PLAY ♥2
Your count signal (♥2) tells partner that declarer started with only two hearts.
Therefore a low heart continuation forces out ♥A and partner's ♥Q will drop ♥J
when west regains the lead.

♥ J83
♥ KQ1094 **H** ♥ 72
♥ A65

In 'H', PLAY ♥7
Your start of a count signal (♥7) tells partner that **any** continuation of hearts would
unfortunately give declarer TWO tricks

♥ 83
♥ AKJ5 **I** ♥ Q9642
♥ 107

In 'I', PLAY ♥Q
Occasionally declarer is very unlucky and you are sitting with FIVE of partner's suit.
You can still throw ♥Q and trust that partner will play his top hearts FIRST
so that you can overtake partner's ♥5 to cash the fifth heart trick.

♥ 83
♥ AKJ54 **J** ♥ Q62
♥ 1097

In 'J', PLAY ♥Q
Although this is not the classic '**lead of a king**,' the information that partner needs
from you, is the same. "*Where is the queen and how many do you have?*"

♥ J83
♥ KQ1054 **K** ♥ A62
♥ 1097

In 'K', PLAY ♥2 EXCEPTION TO THE RULE
This is the most difficult layout because IF you were to overtake with ♥A it would
set up ♥J as a winner for declarer. *Partner has to work out this exception to the
rule.* A little thought would tell partner that **IF** declarer held ♥A surely he would take
partner's king with the ace, knowing that he has a 2nd heart trick with ♥Jx playing
after west's ♥Q. NOT ROCKET SCIENCE!

AS DECLARER

Remember these layouts and defensive manoeuvres when you are declarer in a NT contract and L.H.O. leads a king.
You may have to apply the rule of 7 and avoidance play to make your contract.

KING LEADS AGAINST NT CONTRACTS

♠ A73
 ♥ 52
 ♦ 843
 ♣ KQJ72

♠ 942
 ♥ 87643
 ♦ 75
 ♣ A83

♠ KQ1085
 ♥ K9
 ♦ J1092
 ♣ 95

♠ J6
 ♥ AQJ10
 ♦ AKQ6
 ♣ 1064

S 1H
 W P
 N 2C
 E P
 3NT = 17+ with only four hearts!

KING LEADS
 East plays ♠2 showing three. So west can continue with ♠K dropping ♠J

Now, as long as east holds up ♣A on west's doubleton count signal, declarer only makes 8 tricks.

KING LEADS
 Cue bid is strong but denies 4 hearts.

South ducks. West is not aware of the 'Bath Coup' & continues ♠Q. South makes 11 tricks!

♥J switch is acceptable.

♠ 7
 ♥ K92
 ♦ AKJ763
 ♣ AK9

♠ 865
 ♥ Q543
 ♦ 82
 ♣ 7532

♠ KQ1043
 ♥ AJ10
 ♦ Q104
 ♣ QJ

♠ AJ92
 ♥ 876
 ♦ 95
 ♣ 10864

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

Cramlington 09/07

♠ AJ962
 ♥ 98
 ♦ A103
 ♣ J42

♠ K4
 ♥ J7543
 ♦ K962
 ♣ 109

♠ 8753
 ♥ KQ102
 ♦ Q4
 ♣ 875

♠ Q10
 ♥ A6
 ♦ J875
 ♣ AKQ63

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

KING LEADS
 East can still throw ♥J enabling west to continue with ♥Q. West must obviously unblock ♥10 when suit is played again.

Brunton 09/07

KING LEADS CREATIVE
 This lead by a good player is the exception that proves the rule. It worked well. East can still throw ♥J.

Declarer ducks twice and then finesses ♦Q.

♠ K3
 ♥ 102
 ♦ AQ875
 ♣ QJ54

♠ J7
 ♥ J7654
 ♦ K10
 ♣ 10976

♠ Q9862
 ♥ KQ9
 ♦ J943
 ♣ 3

♠ A1054
 ♥ A83
 ♦ 62
 ♣ AK82

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

Cramlington 10/07

♠ 965
 ♥ KQJ
 ♦ AQ54
 ♣ Q85

♠ 842
 ♥ 10543
 ♦ 1087
 ♣ KJ9

♠ AKJ103
 ♥ 862
 ♦ 96
 ♣ 742

♠ Q7
 ♥ A97
 ♦ KJ32
 ♣ A1063

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

KING LEADS
 A less obvious hand where the lead of a king is correct.

♠2 from east is the count signal that west need to run the suit!

KING LEADS
 ♥K lead. East plays ♥8

Spade switch is safe.

IF declarer plays clubs now, contract makes.

IF diamonds, contract is off on east's spade return.

♠ KQ6
 ♥ 75
 ♦ QJ87
 ♣ KQ82

♠ 1075
 ♥ 82
 ♦ A953
 ♣ J1096

♠ 843
 ♥ KQJ96
 ♦ 62
 ♣ A73

♠ AJ92
 ♥ A1043
 ♦ K104
 ♣ 54

S 1NT
 W P
 N 3NT
 E

♠ KQ105
 ♥ J87
 ♦ AKQ7
 ♣ 108

♠ A964
 ♥ 962
 ♦ 1086
 ♣ 732

♠ 732
 ♥ 543
 ♦ 95
 ♣ AKJ65

♠ J8
 ♥ AKQ10
 ♦ J432
 ♣ Q94

S 1NT
 W P
 N 3NT
 E

KING LEADS
 East's ♠2 shows three and a switch is needed.

Declarer needs spades, so east wins ♠A and plays back ♣7 to beat the contract.

3NT -2

KING LEADS OVERTAKE
 ♥K LEAD

East overtakes and returns ♥5.

If E/W played inverted minor raises it would be 1♣ - 2♣ (showing 10 ish pts. and a good raise to 3♣.

♠ A2
 ♥ 964
 ♦ K86
 ♣ KJ965

♠ J10865
 ♥ A5
 ♦ J10973
 ♣ 2

♠ 974
 ♥ KQ1032
 ♦ Q52
 ♣ 74

♠ KQ3
 ♥ J87
 ♦ A4
 ♣ AQ1083

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

DEFENCE HANDS ON COUNT & LEADS

<p>1.</p> <p>♠ 743 ♥ 853 ♦ KQ1072 ♣ 62</p> <p>♠ QJ108 ♥ 1097 ♦ 986 ♣ 1074</p> <p>♠ 96 ♥ J642 ♦ A53 ♣ QJ98</p> <p>♠ AK52 ♥ AKQ ♦ J4 ♣ AK53</p>	<p>S N</p> <p>2♣ 2♦</p> <p>2NT 3NT</p>	<p>♠Q LEAD. Count - Odd</p> <p>South wins ♠A and leads ♦J East must SEE west's play of the diamonds!</p> <p>♦6 then ♦8 shows <i>three</i>. Declarer therefore has <i>two</i>. A♦ MUST be taken on the <i>2nd</i> round.</p>
<p>2.</p> <p>♠ QJ976 ♥ KJ ♦ KJ2 ♣ J106</p> <p>♠ A4 ♥ 1032 ♦ 1073 ♣ KQ754</p> <p>♠ 5 ♥ 9654 ♦ AQ984 ♣ 932</p> <p>♠ K10832 ♥ AQ87 ♦ 65 ♣ A8</p>	<p>S N</p> <p>1♠ 4♠</p>	<p>♣K LEAD Count & McKenney</p> <p>East plays ♣2. When in with ♠A, west cashes ♣Q. East has already shown <i>three</i> clubs. Of the two clubs remaining, ♣3 is suit preference signal asking for a switch to the lower of the other two suits.</p>
<p>3.</p> <p>♠ J2 ♥ J109 ♦ AK1093 ♣ 873</p> <p>♠ 83 ♥ 863 ♦ 8762 ♣ AJ65</p> <p>♠ 6 ♥ AKQ75 ♦ QJ5 ♣ Q942</p> <p>♠ AKQ109754 ♥ 42 ♦ 4 ♣ K10</p>	<p>E S</p> <p>1♥ 4♠</p>	<p>♥6 LEAD Count - M.U.D.</p> <p>East wins with ♥Q and when ♥K is cashed west follows with ♥8. The lead was MUD showing <i>three</i> cards. A switch to clubs, leading up to weakness sets the contract.</p>
<p>4.</p> <p>♠ QJ102 ♥ AJ3 ♦ 1098 ♣ AQJ</p> <p>♠ 654 ♥ 952 ♦ AKJ43 ♣ 32</p> <p>♠ 987 ♥ K104 ♦ 762 ♣ 10987</p> <p>♠ AK3 ♥ Q876 ♦ Q5 ♣ K654</p>	<p>S N</p> <p>1NT 2♣</p> <p>2♥ 3NT</p>	<p>♦K LEAD Count or Honour</p> <p>Any king lead against NTs asks partner to throw an honour or give count. The ♦2 shows <i>one* or three</i>. Therefore a continuation of the ♦K will drop the ♦Q. (*If singleton, nothing matters.)</p>
<p>5.</p> <p>♠ A842 ♥ QJ107 ♦ J98 ♣ K9</p> <p>♠ 105 ♥ 2 ♦ Q7643 ♣ J7542</p> <p>♠ Q7 ♥ A86543 ♦ AK ♣ 1063</p> <p>♠ KJ963 ♥ K9 ♦ 1052 ♣ AQ8</p>	<p>E S W N</p> <p>1♥ 1♠ P *2♥</p> <p>P 4♠</p> <p>*Unassuming cue bid</p>	<p>♥2 LEAD Count - King/Ace</p> <p>Must be <i>singleton!</i> East wins ♥A, then cashes ♦K & ♦A. East then returns ♥8 for west to ruff. West returns ♦7 which east ruffs. The ♥6 return gives west another ruff. The contract is three down. (Declarer should throw ♥K on east's ♥A!)</p>
<p>6.</p> <p>♠ A542 ♥ Q95 ♦ QJ754 ♣ 10</p> <p>♠ QJ97 ♥ 632 ♦ 103 ♣ J642</p> <p>♠ K6 ♥ K1074 ♦ A98 ♣ 9873</p> <p>♠ 1083 ♥ AJ8 ♦ K62 ♣ AKQ5</p>	<p>S N</p> <p>1♣ 1♠</p> <p>2NT 3NT</p>	<p>♠Q LEAD Count - Even</p> <p>East must overtake and return ♠6. When declarer plays ♦K, west must play ♦10 start of a hi-lo to show <i>two</i> cards. Therefore declarer has <i>three</i>. East must not take ♦A until the 3rd round!</p>

DEFENCE HANDS ON COUNT & LEADS

♠ A862
 ♥ 105
 ♦ KQ1093
 ♣ AK

♠ 95
 ♥ AKJ86
 ♦ A
 ♣ 65432

♠ 43
 ♥ Q72
 ♦ 87652
 ♣ 1098

♠ KQJ107
 ♥ 943
 ♦ J4
 ♣ QJ7

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

**LEADING PARTNER'S SUIT.
♥2 LEAD**

Low from an honour to 3 or 4.

East wins ♥K, unblocks ♦A and returns a heart to west's ♥Q.

A diamond ruff sets the contract!

**LEADING DOUBLETONS
♥8 LEAD**

With FEW pts. it is OK to play a hi-lo looking for a ruff. When this works cash your ♣A to set the contract!

Declarer should throw ♥Q at trick 1.

♠ 8532
 ♥ 96
 ♦ AKQ9
 ♣ KQ6

♠ 96
 ♥ 85
 ♦ 108753
 ♣ A972

♠ J7
 ♥ AK104
 ♦ J42
 ♣ 10854

♠ AKQ104
 ♥ QJ732
 ♦ 6
 ♣ J3

S	W	N	E
1S	P	*2NT	P
3D	P	4S	*Jacoby

♠ 86
 ♥ KQJ5
 ♦ 104
 ♣ KQJ82

♠ 107432
 ♥ 86
 ♦ QJ2
 ♣ 1064

♠ AQ5
 ♥ 10
 ♦ AK9753
 ♣ 953

♠ KJ9
 ♥ A97432
 ♦ 86
 ♣ A7

S	W	N	E
1H	2D	4H	P

**THROWING QUEEN ON PARTNER'S ACE
♦A LEAD**

Unless east plays ♦Q (to show ♦J) there is no defence.* West continues ♦9 to ♦J and the spade switch sets the contract

NOTE
*With Qx, you cannot show the doubleton.

**M.U.D.
♦7 LEAD**

East wins ♦Q and ♦A.

West's ♦9 shows THREE cards.

With no ruff available, east leads up to weakness in dummy, (clubs) to set the contract.

♠ AKJ5
 ♥ Q87
 ♦ K105
 ♣ 102

♠ 6432
 ♥ J4
 ♦ 972
 ♣ AQ83

♠ 1097
 ♥ 953
 ♦ AQ643
 ♣ 976

♠ Q8
 ♥ AK1062
 ♦ J8
 ♣ KJ54

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

♠ Q97
 ♥ K75
 ♦ K52
 ♣ KQ85

♠ 853
 ♥ J643
 ♦ 97643
 ♣ 3

♠ A2
 ♥ AQ8
 ♦ QJ108
 ♣ 9742

♠ KJ1064
 ♥ 1092
 ♦ A
 ♣ AJ106

S	W	N	E
1S	P	2C	P
3C	P	4S	

**LISTEN TO THE BIDDING
♣7 LEAD**

(Partner has a singleton club).

Win trick 2 immediately with ♠A.

Return ♣9 to tell east you want a heart return. (A McKenney signal).

**NO RUFF
♦A LEAD**

East plays ♦4, low from THREE.

Declarer should play ♦8 or ♦7 at trick 1 to disguise east's count signal.

On ♦K, east plays ♦9, a McKenney signal, asking for heart switch.

♠ KJ98
 ♥ K652
 ♦ QJ52
 ♣ A

♠ 65
 ♥ 874
 ♦ AK10
 ♣ 97653

♠ 104
 ♥ AQ109
 ♦ 964
 ♣ 10842

♠ AQ732
 ♥ J3
 ♦ 873
 ♣ KQJ

S	W	N	E
1S	P	2NT	P
4S			*Jacoby

♠ QJ92
 ♥ AQ6
 ♦ QJ7
 ♣ Q97

♠ 75
 ♥ K7543
 ♦ 943
 ♣ J84

♠ 84
 ♥ 8
 ♦ AK1065
 ♣ K10652

♠ AK1063
 ♥ J1092
 ♦ 82
 ♣ A3

S	W	N	E
1S	*2NT	4S	P
4S			*U.N.T.

**DECLARER MAKES!
♦A LEAD*. Then ♦K.**

When east plays ♦3 (then ♦9), west switches to ♥8. Declarer must NOT finesse. On the surplus diamond winner, he can throw ♣3, AFTER drawing trumps

*Declarer should play ♦8 at trick 1.

**TOO STRONG FOR DOUBLETON LEAD!
♠K LEAD**

Declarer wins and tackles trumps.* West wins ♥A and cashes ♠Q, SEEING east's hi-lo! East ruffs the 3rd spade and switches to diamonds.

*Declarer SHOULD play clubs for a spade ditch before playing trumps.

♠ A85
 ♥ J1072
 ♦ J95
 ♣ AQ10

♠ KQ1032
 ♥ A5
 ♦ K108
 ♣ 932

♠ 94
 ♥ 43
 ♦ 7632
 ♣ J8654

♠ J76
 ♥ KQ986
 ♦ AQ4
 ♣ K7

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

REQUEST - STRONG HANDS USING 'WEAK 2s IN 3 SUITS'

Playing 'Weak 2s in Three Suits', you cannot differentiate between GAME FORCING 2♣ opening bids and ACOL STRONG TWO opening bids. In Benji - you can!

Because 2♦, 2♥ and 2♠ all describe weak hands, only 2♣ is left to show strong hands. (Other than 2NT, 20-22)
A new definition of 2♣ needs to be agreed and we suggest - 4 LOSER & 7 CONTROLS

With eight playing tricks, this first north hand could be described as an 'Acol Strong Two,' but it would NOT qualify as a 2♣ open.

If you decide to play 'Weak Twos in 3 Suits', north, on hand 1. should open 1♥ (with the risk of it being passed!) It does not fit the criteria for 2♣ and is too strong to open 4♥. (3♥ is a nonsense!)

BENJI ACOL

N	S
2♣	2♦
2♥	3♦
4♥	

1. NORTH

♠ A4	
♥ AKQ1076	
♦ KJ3	
♣ 83	
♠ 753	
♥ 84	
♦ Q10854	
♣ A92	

SOUTH

WEAK 2s in 3 SUITS

N	S
1♥	1NT
3♥	4♥

- 2♣ is either a 'Strong 2' or a balanced 21/22
- 2♦ is a forced RELAY bid.
- 2♥ shows 8 playing tricks.
- 3♦ is a suit (forcing)

- 1♥ is an opening hand
- 1NT 6-9 limit bid without four spades
- 3♥ shows six+ (17+ HCPs or 5 loser or both)
- 4♥ Just enough maybe?

This second north hand would be described as a 'Benj 2♦ Opening' and playing 'Weak 2s in Three Suits', it would qualify as a 2♣ opening

BENJI ACOL

N	S
2♦	2♥
3♥	4♥

2. NORTH

♠ A4	
♥ AKQ1076	
♦ AJ3	
♣ KQ	
♠ 753	
♥ 842	
♦ K10854	
♣ 92	

SOUTH

WEAK 2s in 3 SUITS

N	S
2♣	2♦
2♥	4♥

- 2♦ is 23+ HCPs or a 'Game force'
- 2♥ is a negative (0-7)
- 3♥ shows a 5+ card suit.
- 4♥ Weak! Where else can the hand play?

- 2♣ is a 4 loser with 7 controls
- 2♦ denies any rich source of tricks. (No 5 card suit with 2 of the top 3 honours).
- 2♥ shows a 5+ card suit
- 4♥ Weak! Where else can the hand play?

Make up each of the following hands and deal the rest of the cards. Then try bidding each of the three hands after using the suggested opening bids.

♠ AKQ864
♥ A
♦ A73
♣ KQ10

1.

8 controls 4 loser
2♣

(Benji 2♦)
23+ or
Game Force

♠ AQJ
♥ KJ76
♦ AJ3
♣ KQ9

2.

Balanced 20-22
2NT

(Benji 2♣)
Balanced 21/22

♠ A4
♥ AQJ762
♦ Q32
♣ AK

3.

7 controls 4 loser
2♣

(Benji 2♣)
Strong Two
8 playing tricks

♠ KQ
♥ AQJ973
♦ KQJ65
♣ -

4.

4 controls 3 loser
1♥

(Benji 2♣)
Strong Two
8 playing tricks

♠ A4
♥ AK1076
♦ AQ3
♣ KQJ

5.

8 controls 23 pts
2♣

(Benji 2♦)
23+ or
Game Force

♠ AKJ103
♥ AQJ10
♦ 9
♣ A64

6.

7 controls 5 loser
1♠

(Benji 2♣)
Strong Two
8 playing tricks

2♣ BIDDING ERRORS!

Each of these three hands from the NEBA Kempson Vases Final were mis-bid by a number of pairs. We suggest that you play 2♣ openings as showing a **4 loser hand with 7 controls**.

1.

♠ 65	♠ 108
♥ AK10	♥ Q8643
♦ K1062	♦ QJ95
♣ QJ72	♣ 63
♠ AKQ9732	
♥ 72	
♦ A	
♣ AK10	

What happened

S	N
2♣	2♦
2♠	pass

Suggested

S	N
2♣	2♦
2♠	2NT
4♠	

WHAT SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED!

2♣ = 4 loser 7 controls OR 23+ balanced
 2♦* = Relay
 2♠ = Forcing for 1 round
 2NT = A VERY poor hand (0-2 or 3 pts.)
 4♠ = Surely!

Clearly if south does not open with a forcing bid, north WILL pass.

Somehow, game was missed!!
+170 instead of = +620

2.

♠ KQ4	♠ A9875
♥ QJ2	♥ K7
♦ 92	♦ 873
♣ KJ983	♣ 752
♠ 10	
♥ A109853	
♦ AKQJ5	
♣ A	

What happened

S	N
2♣	2♦
2♥	2♠
3♦	3NT
P	

Suggested

S	N
2♣	2♦
2♥	2♠/2NT
3♦	4♥/3♥

WHAT HAPPENED!

2♣ = 4 loser 7 controls OR 23+ balanced
 2♦* = Relay
 2♥ = Forcing for 1 round
 2♠ = Natural
 3♦ = Forcing
 3NT = 6 ish HCPs. Stops in clubs and spades
 Pass = Trusting partner 7 (top tricks)

Wrong game bid!!
-200 instead of 4♥ +620

3.

♠ J10432	♠ 976
♥ 72	♥ 84
♦ J32	♦ AK87
♣ J75	♣ 10643
♠ A8	
♥ AK10963	
♦ 4	
♣ AKQ9	

What happened

S	N
?	

Suggested

S	N
2♣	2♦
2♥	4NT
5♦	6♥

WHAT SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED!

South is a 3 loser with 7 controls
 2♣ = 4 loser 7 controls OR 23+ balanced
 2♦* = Relay
 2♥ = Forcing for 1 round
 4NT = RKCB (fit & 8 loser)
 5♦ = 1 or 4 key cards
 6♥

Somehow, slam was missed!!
+620 instead of = +1430

* 2♦ relay bid denies an independent rich source of tricks (a five card suit with 2 of the top 3 honours.)

TAKEOUT DOUBLES (revisited)

After RHO opens the bidding, the most common meaning of 'X' for takeout is "I have 11+ HCPs, a shortage in opener's suit and I have at least three cards in the other suits. Please take out my double by bidding your best suit partner."

Right Hand Opponent opens 1♦

PERFECT	Near perfect	16+.	Less clear	Unwise	Remember there are alternatives	16-18 +stop	Five hearts!
♠ A1062 ♥ AK42 ♦ 8 ♣ K982	♠ A1062 ♥ AK4 ♦ 82 ♣ K982	♠ A1062 ♥ AK ♦ 832 ♣ AQ87	♠ A1062 ♥ KQ ♦ 8 ♣ K98752	♠ A1062 ♥ J4 ♦ 8 ♣ K98752		♠ A1062 ♥ AQ ♦ KJ5 ♣ KJ985	♠ A10 ♥ AQJ75 ♦ J5 ♣ J985
'X'	'X'	'X'	'X'	2♣		1NT	1♥

Because it is not good practise to overcall 4 card suits, the T.O. 'X' can often locate 4 card that would otherwise be missed and it takes up no bidding space. If you increasingly use take out doubles when there are debatable alternatives, the important thing to consider is - What will you do if partner bids the suit that you do not have? **Normally, you should pass** - because - **when the doubler bids a different suit, they are showing a much stronger hand than 12 ish.**

REMEMBER that with 16+ pts you are too strong to make a simple overcall.

Protective Position

There is a situation where you should make a Takeout double even though you do not have 11 HCPs. When the opponents have found a fit and yet have stopped bidding at the 2 level they probably have little more than 20 HCPs between them. If they have a fit, then so will you. So compete!! Take them out of their comfort zone. Push them at least one level higher!

				*East					*West	
S	W	N	E	♠ AJ94	*Do everything you can to stop opponents playing IN A FIT at the 2 level!	♠ K1062	S	W	N	E
1♦	P	1♥	P	♥ 62		♥ 6	1♥	P	2♥	P
2♥	P	P	(X)	♦ 85		♦ A85	P	(X)		
				♣ K10973					♣ J10973	

		♠ A1062		
		♥ 102		
		♦ J6		
		♣ K9432		
WEST		EAST		
♠ KQ95		♠ 8		
♥ -		♥ AQJ76		
♦ A1085432	2♥x by South	♦ Q7		
♣ J6		♣ A10875		
		♠ J743		
		♥ K98543		
		♦ K9		
		♣ Q		

S W N E
2♥ X P P

West's X shows an opening hand and usually four spades. Convert the T.O. double into a penalty double by PASSING!

Hands from Monday's Duplicate

		♠ K7	11	
		♥ AQ86		
		♦ Q7		
		♣ KQJ65		
WEST		EAST		
♠ 3		♠ Q109864		
♥ KJ3		♥ 9		
♦ KJ982	3NT by west	♦ 1043		
♣ A872		♣ 943		
		♠ AJ62		
		♥ 107542		
		♦ A65		
		♣ 10		

S W N E
P 1♦ X *2♠
3♥ P 4♥ P
P (*2♠ weak jump shift 0-3 pts)

		♠ KQJ9	16	
		♥ 8		
		♦ K10932		
		♣ AQ9		
WEST		EAST		
♠ A62		♠ 53		
♥ A10965		♥ K432		
♦ QJ7	4♠ by South	♦ 54		
♣ K5		♣ J6432		
		♠ 10874		
		♥ QJ7		
		♦ A86		
		♣ 1087		

W N E S
1♥ X *2♥ P
P X P 2♠
P 3♠ *East HAS 6 pts!

WHAT TO PLAY WHEN DEFENDING

♠ J95
 ♥ AJ43
 ♦ 105
 ♣ AJ74
 ♠ AK2
 ♥ Q109765
 ♦ 87
 ♣ K3
 ♠ 8643
 ♥ K2
 ♦ J43
 ♣ Q982
 ♠ Q102
 ♥ 8
 ♦ AKQ962
 ♣ 1065

4♦
by
South

S	W	N	E
1♦	1♥	2NT	P
4♦ ?	P	P	P

'Bridge Club Live' auction

S	W	N	E
1♦	1♥	2NT	P
3♦	P	3NT	P

More sensible auction!

COVER AN HONOUR WITH AN HONOUR

In mid game, declarer leads ♣10. Ask yourself "What will happen if I duck?" Well it is likely that partner's ♣Q will win.

But when declarer leads another club, your king will fall and declarer's ♣A AND ♣J will win. Notice the difference if you cover ♣10 with ♣K immediately.

Note that there are also exceptions to the "2nd hand plays low" mantra.

♣ AJ6
 ♣ K95 3NT by S ♣ 1087
 ♣ Q432
 Declarer leads ♣Q.
 West must cover with ♣K for the defence to make a trick.

♣ 10752
 ♣ J3 ? by S
 ♣ 9 led
 With Jx in 2nd position, it would be silly not to use ♣J (UNLESS you desperately needed partner on lead)

♣ AJ94
 ♣ KQ3 4♥ by S ♣ 10752
 ♣ 86
 Against a suit contract, you will never make a trick if you play low when declarer leads ♣8 to ♣J because the 3rd round of clubs will be ruffed.

♣ Q6
 ♣ 109743 3NT by S ♣ KJ8
 ♣ A52
 West leads ♣10.
 Declarer ducks in dummy.
 East must win ♣J AND return ♣K.

UNBLOCKING In 3rd position

♣Q LEAD from THREE in a near sequence. Declarer ducks ♣Q, then takes ♣A after the ♣J continuation. East **MUST** throw/unblock ♣K !!

♠ K74 ♥ Q74 ♦ KJ1086 ♣ 104 ♠ J106 ♥ J962 ♦ - ♣ QJ9873	3NT by S	♠ Q83 ♥ A8 ♦ Q9732 ♣ K65 ♠ A952 ♥ K1053 ♦ A54 ♣ A2
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♠ QJ3
 ♥ J10
 ♦ QJ93
 ♣ K1092
 WEST
 ♠ 1075
 ♥ 9742
 ♦ K10654
 ♣ 6
 EAST
 ♠ A62
 ♥ A853
 ♦ 82
 ♣ J874
 ♠ K984
 ♥ KQ6
 ♦ A7
 ♣ AQ53

3NT
by
South

S	W	N	E
1♠	P	2♣	P
3NT = 17/18			

Only two pairs made 11 tricks for a shared top. (All on the play of one defensive error.)

Cover an honour with an honour (OR NOT?)

♦5 LEAD - Standard 4th highest lead is won by ♦Q in dummy. ♣10 is led from dummy. What should east play?

♣4 **DO NOT** cover touching honours!
Declarer was tempting you and never going to finesse the 10.

Cramlington.

DECLARER PLAY SOLUTIONS

♠ A92	♠ K86	
♥ 64	♥ QJ932	
♦ QJ103	♦ AK2	
♣ K432	♣ 65	♠ 10543
		♥ A5
		♦ 985
		♣ 10987
	♠ QJ7	
	♥ K1087	
	♦ 764	
	♣ AQJ	

S	W	N	E
1NT	P	2D	P
2H	P	3NT	P
4H			

Lead ♦ Q

You have two fast losers (♥A & ♠A) and two slow losers in the minors. IF you attempt to draw trumps, another diamond lead will set up a diamond winner for the defence when your club finesse fails.

Solution - Get rid of that diamond loser by creating a winning club on which you can throw ♦ 2

Win ♦ A, and finesse ♣ Q immediately.

It loses but you now have a winning ♣ J on which to throw the losing ♦ 2. Now draw trumps.

♠ K983	♠ 65	
♥ J8	♥ 974	
♦ KJ974	♦ Q52	
♣ 82	♣ KJ1074	♠ Q74
		♥ 106532
		♦ 63
		♣ A95
	♠ AJ102	
	♥ AKQ	
	♦ A108	
	♣ Q63	

S	W	N	E
2NT	P	3NT	

Lead ♦ 7

Declarer needs to think!

Top tricks = 5 (After the lead = 6)

Clubs is the suit on which you should focus.

Problem. Limited entries to dummy.

Solution 4th highest lead places all high diamonds with west. Do not try for a cheap trick by winning with ♦ 7

Win trick 1 with ♦ A.

This will create ♦ Q as entry even when east correctly holds up ♣ A until 3rd round.

	Dummy	
♠ A10876	♠ 54	
♥ J963	♥ A87	
♦ 109	♦ KQ62	
♣ 97	♣ AJ83	♠ Q93
		♥ Q10
		♦ J8743
	♠ KJ2	♣ Q104
	♥ K542	
	♦ A5	
	♣ K652	

S	W	N	E
1NT	P	3NT	

Lead ♠ 7

Declarer & defender need to think!

Declarer should recognise that a finesse into east's clubs is required.

Declarer should DUCK ♠ Q at trick 1.

When spades are returned, play the ♠ K and hope that west wins with ♠ A and plays a 3rd spade.

Now when the club finesse fails, east does not have a spade to play.

West with no outside entry should duck ♠ K. Now when east gets in he can lead his 3rd spade to west.

♠ Q87	♠ AJ1043	
♥ 107432	♥ AJ9	
♦ J96	♦ AQ10	
♣ A5	♣ K7	♠ K96
		♥ Q85
		♦ K842
	♠ 52	♣ 642
	♥ K6	
	♦ 753	
	♣ QJ10983	

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

Lead ♥ 3

Declarer needs to think!

Top tricks = 4

Clubs is again the suit on which you should focus.

Problem. As before -

Limited entries to dummy.

Solution Do not try for a cheap trick by playing ♥ J or ♥ 9. IF you do, your only entry to the clubs is removed and you cannot make your contract!

DEFENDING!

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♠ AQ102 ♥ J108 ♦ 65 ♣ K1065	♠ KJ8763 ♥ KQ4 ♦ K3 ♣ J2 ♠ - ♥ A9652 ♦ AJ98 ♣ Q874	♠ 954 ♥ 73 ♦ Q10742 ♣ A93	
N	E	S	W
1S	P	2H	P
3H	P	4H	

2ND HAND LOW!

West does well not to try to cash ♠A, but the ♦6 is a poor choice. ♦3 - ♦Q - ♦A (*♥J is best when you hold spades!*)

Declarer can never make a high card club trick, and is heading for only one off - IF he can ruff a club with ♥4

BUT THEN when south leads ♣4 to ♣J west plays ♣K!! and returns another diamond!

8 tricks (on a trump lead) has become 10 tricks with a club ruff and the now established ♣Q

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♠ A4 ♥ A10984 ♦ 104 ♣ J983	♠ 1073 ♥ 652 ♦ QJ95 ♣ AK4 ♠ KQJ9862 ♥ 3 ♦ K86 ♣ 75	♠ 5 ♥ KQJ7 ♦ A732 ♣ Q1062	
S	W	N	E
3S	P	P	X
P	4H	4S	P
P	?		

2ND HAND HIGH

WEST HAS A PLAN - BUT CHANGES HIS MIND

1. After the auction it is reasonable to assume that partner (east) has values in diamonds. Even ♦KQ would work BECAUSE west has ♠A. So ♦10 looking for a ruff is led.

2. East (in case it is a singleton) rises with ♦A and returns ♦9 This is won by declarer in hand with ♦K.

3. Declarer leads ♠2 towards dummy. West is caught off guard and foolishly plays low in case the ace drops partner's singleton ♠K. GAME OVER.

West's original plan was excellent.

To win with ♠A and underlead ♥A to east's ♥J and ruff the diamond return.

♠ AK108 ♥ 96 ♦ K1052 ♣ 853	♠ Q ♥ AKJ3 ♦ 764 ♣ KQJ109 ♠ 754 ♥ Q10752 ♦ AJ9 ♣ 76	♠ J9632 ♥ 84 ♦ Q83 ♣ A42	
N	E	S	W
1C	P	1H	X
3H	p	4H	

SPOT THE DANGER

West leads ♠A. East could signal the club ace! but would partner think it was a void and lead clubs?! East wisely plays a neutral ♠6.

West reads this as no interest in anything and switches to a trump. Presumably to cut down ruffs, but declarer draws trumps and sets up the clubs on which to throw losers.

West should be fearful of this and attempt to set up diamonds winners before it's too late!

♠ 94 ♥ 9864 ♦ A84 ♣ 10976	♠ 872 ♥ Q ♦ KJ1092 ♣ AK52 ♠ QJ10 ♥ AKJ10 ♦ Q65 ♣ J43	♠ AK653 ♥ 7532 ♦ 73 ♣ Q8	
N	E	S	W
1♦	1♠	X	P
2♣	P	3NT	

DEFENDER NEEDS TO THINK!

Top tricks = 6 (After the lead = 7)

With no entry back to his hand, east should duck the spade lead and hope partner can regain the lead to play a 2nd spade. Now the ace, king will drop souths remaining spades.

The defence can take four spade tricks and the ♦A