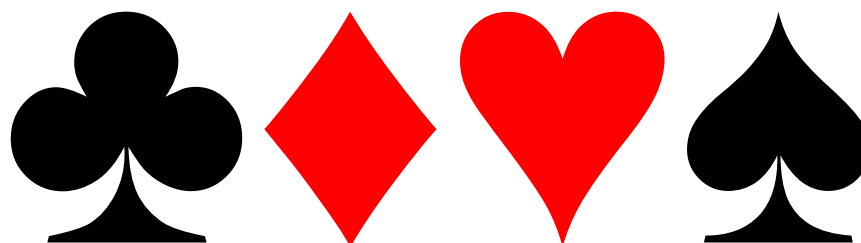




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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)



Steve Bailey



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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)

Opening Leads

Last session's DVD showed what card to lead from any particular suit holding. (The next part will be how to choose which of the 4 suit holdings is best.)

There are two strands to this, one for a Suit contract and one for No Trumps.

Against suits, **never underlead an Ace**.

Generally do not lead that suit – but if you have to, then lead the Ace.

Eg Axxx Axxx Axx Ax

Consider a 10 to be an honour if it is not the only honour or is involved in a sequence.

Lead of a low spot card implies an honour is held.

Lead of a high spot card denies an honour unless it happens to also be the low / fourth card.

Usually an honour promises the card below it and denies the one above it. There are exceptions.



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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)

In the lists that follow:

H is an honour or a sequential card under that honour eg JT9 is HHH;

h is a non-sequential honour;

x (or X) is "another card" – mostly spot cards;

- is a card missing from a sequence;

... is "possibly more cards"

Eg: h-HHx... includes QT9543

The lists of what to lead from a given holding are from the B Magee DVD and related email conversations.

The lists of what a particular lead card means are determined by me from the former lists. The highlit "assume it means this" is my interpretation of expert opinion – it could be wrong.



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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)

What value to lead:

Long suits: L4+

* Top of a sequence headed by an honour

Against a Suited contract

Sequence of 2 HHxx...

AKxx...

KQxx...

QJxx...

JTx...

T9x...

Interior sequence h-HHx...

(Do not underlead A)

K-JTx...

K--T9x...

Q-T9x...

These are good leads – the higher the honour lead the better.



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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)

What value to lead:

Long suits: L4+

* Top of a sequence headed by an honour

Against an NT contract

Sequence of 3

HHHx...

AKQx...

KQJx...

QJTx...

JT9x...

T98x...

Broken

HH-hx...

AK-Jx...

KQ-Tx...

QJ-9x...

JT-8x...

T9-7x...

Interior

h-HHx...

A-QJx...

K-JTx...

Q-T9x...

A-Q-T9...

A--JTx...

K--T9x...

A---T9x

These are good leads – the higher the honour lead the better.

Against NT, underleading an Ace is acceptable.



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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)

What value to lead:

Long suits: L4+

* Fourth highest from non-sequential honour(s) (*NT or suited*)

HxxX...

A-Q-TX (*NT only – do not underlead A against a suit*)

This is a very common lead.



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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)

What value to lead:

Long suits: L4+

* Near top of rubbish (no honours)

xXxx... eg 87532

Note that a suited lead won't be a 9 since the only possible non-honour above it is a 10 and, when in sequence (T9), 10 counts as an honour.

Usually only lead when there is nothing better.



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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)

What value to lead:

Long suits: L4+

* Unsupported Ace

Axxx... (*Rare – only in special circumstances*)

Avoid this lead if you can.



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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)

What value to lead:

Medium length: L3

* Low from non-sequential honour(s)

HxX HhX

* MUD (Middle Up Down) from no-honour

uMd *Lead M first, U on a later trick and lastly D*

Lead from L3 is uncommon.

Most frequently seen with 4333 hands with the L4 suit being Axxx.



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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)

What value to lead:

Doubletons: L2

* Normally lead top

Xx

* But from AK bare lead K

AK

Generally a "top of a doubleton" is a poor opening lead.



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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)

What value to lead:

Singletons: L1

* Lead it

X

Good against suits (but not a L1 trump suit), usually poor against NT.

So we've seen what to lead from each suit holding.

Now we contrast by looking at what partner (and declarer) can determine from the lead.



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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)

What shapes to think about

Singleton: X

Doubleton: Xx
AK

L3: Low to H HxX
MUD (no H) xXx

L4+: Suit Seq2 HHxx...
Suit Interior h-HHx...
NT Seq3 HHHx...
NT Broken HH-hx...
NT Interior h-HHx...

4th Low to H HxxX...

Near top rubbish xXxx...

I am NOT listing the unsupported Ace, Ax...

Holdings in red are the most likely reasons for the lead.



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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)

What shapes to think about:	A	promises K
Singleton:	<u>X</u>	<u>A</u>
Doubleton:	<u>X</u> x <u>A</u> <u>K</u> -	<u>A</u> x but not AK
L3: Low to H	Hx <u>X</u> -	
MUD (no H)	x <u>X</u> x -	
L4+: Suit Seq2	<u>H</u> Hxx...	<u>A</u> Kxx...
Suit Interior	h- <u>H</u> Hx... -	
NT Seq3	<u>H</u> HHx...	<u>A</u> KQx...
NT Broken	<u>H</u> H-hx...	<u>A</u> K-Jx... <u>A</u> K--Tx...
NT Interior	h- <u>H</u> Hx... -	
4th Low to H	Hxx <u>X</u> ... -	
Near top rubbish	x <u>X</u> xx... -	



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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)

What shapes to think about:	K	denies A, promises Q
Singleton:	<u>X</u>	<u>K</u>
Doubleton:	<u>X</u> x <u>A</u> <u>K</u>	<u>K</u> x <u>A</u> <u>K</u>
L3: Low to H	Hx <u>X</u> -	
MUD (no H)	x <u>X</u> x -	
L4+: Suit Seq2	<u>H</u> Hxx...	<u>K</u> Qxx...
Suit Interior	h- <u>H</u> Hx... -	
NT Seq3	<u>H</u> HHx...	<u>K</u> QJx...
NT Broken	<u>H</u> H-hx...	<u>K</u> Q-Tx...
NT Interior	h- <u>H</u> Hx... -	
4th Low to H	Hxx <u>X</u> ... -	
Near top rubbish	x <u>X</u> xx... -	



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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)

What shapes to think about:	Q	denies (A)K, promises J
Singleton:	<u>X</u>	<u>Q</u>
Doubleton:	<u>X</u> x <u>A</u> <u>K</u> -	<u>Q</u> x
L3: Low to H	Hx <u>X</u> -	
MUD (no H)	x <u>X</u> x -	
L4+: Suit Seq2	<u>H</u> Hxx...	<u>Q</u> Jxx...
Suit Interior	h- <u>H</u> Hx... -	<i>Don't underlead A</i>
NT Seq3	<u>H</u> HHx...	<u>Q</u> JTx...
NT Broken	<u>H</u> H-hx...	<u>Q</u> J-9x...
NT Interior	h- <u>H</u> Hx...	A- <u>Q</u> Jx...
4th Low to H	Hxx <u>X</u> ... -	
Near top rubbish	x <u>X</u> xx... -	



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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)

What shapes to think about:	J	denies (A)Q, promises 10
Singleton:	<u>X</u>	<u>J</u>
Doubleton:	<u>X</u> x A <u>K</u> -	<u>J</u> x
L3: Low to H	Hx <u>X</u> -	
MUD (no H)	x <u>X</u> x -	
L4+: Suit Seq2	<u>H</u> Hxx...	<u>J</u> Txx...
Suit Interior	h- <u>H</u> Hx... -	K- <u>J</u> Tx...
NT Seq3	<u>H</u> HHx...	<u>J</u> T9x...
NT Broken	<u>H</u> H-hx...	<u>J</u> T-8x...
NT Interior	h- <u>H</u> Hx...	A-- <u>J</u> Tx... K- <u>J</u> Tx...
4th Low to H	Hxx <u>X</u> ... -	
Near top rubbish	x <u>X</u> xx... -	



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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)

What shapes to think about:	10	denies (A)J, promises 9		
Singleton:	<u>X</u>	<u>I</u>		
Doubleton:	<u>X</u> x <u>A</u> <u>K</u> -	<u>I</u> x		
L3: Low to H	Hx <u>X</u> -			
MUD (no H)	x <u>X</u> x -			
L4+: Suit Seq2	<u>H</u> Hxx...	<u>I</u> 9xx...		
Suit Interior	h- <u>H</u> Hx... -	K- <u>I</u> 9x... Q- <u>I</u> 9x...		
NT Seq3	<u>H</u> HHx...	<u>I</u> 98x...		
NT Broken	<u>H</u> H-hx...	<u>I</u> 9-7x...		
NT Interior	h- <u>H</u> Hx...	A--- <u>I</u> 9x... K-- <u>I</u> 9x... Q- <u>I</u> 9x... A-Q- <u>I</u> 9...		
4th Low to H	Hxx <u>X</u> ... -			
Near top rubbish	x <u>X</u> xx... -			



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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)

What shapes to think about:	9	denies (A)T
Singleton:	<u>X</u>	<u>9</u>
Doubleton:	<u>X</u> x <u>A</u> <u>K</u> -	<u>9</u> x
L3: Low to H	Hx <u>X</u>	K-J- <u>9</u> HH- <u>9</u>
MUD (no H)	x <u>X</u> x -	<i>Somewhat unlikely</i> <i>NT only (AK AQ AJ KQ KJ)</i>
L4+:		
4th Low to H	Hxx <u>X</u> ... -	<i>Lead of 9 shows L3-</i>
Near top rubbish	x <u>X</u> xx... -	



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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)

What shapes to think about:		8			
Singleton:	<u>X</u>	<u>8</u>			
Doubleton:	<u>X</u> x <u>A</u> <u>K</u> -	<u>8</u> x			
L3: Low to H	Hx <u>X</u>	H- <u>98</u> Hh <u>8</u> HH <u>8</u> Hh <u>8</u>		<i>eg KJ KT QT</i> <i>NT only</i>	
MUD (no H)	x <u>X</u> x -				
L4+:					
4th Low to H	Hxx <u>X</u> ... -	K-J- <u>98</u> AK--T <u>8</u> AK <u>98</u> KQ— <u>98</u>		<i>NT only</i>	
Near top rubbish	x <u>X</u> xx... -	T- <u>8</u> xx <u>98</u> xx			



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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)

What shapes to think about: 76 = N

Singleton: X N

Doubleton: Xx Nx
AK -

L3: Low to H HxX HxN
MUD (no H) xXx xNx

L4+:
4th Low to H HxxX... - HxxN
Near top rubbish xXxx... - xNxx

You need to study the opening lead and your cards and Dummy's cards to help determine whether N is low (HxxN) or high (xNxx).



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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)

What shapes to think about:		5
Singleton:	<u>X</u>	<u>5</u>
Doubleton:	<u>X</u> x AK	<u>5</u> x
L3: Low to H	Hx <u>X</u>	Hx <u>5</u>
MUD (no H)	x <u>X</u> x	x <u>5</u> x
L4+:		
4th Low to H	Hxx <u>X</u> ... -	Hxx <u>5</u>
Near top rubbish	x <u>X</u> xx... -	x <u>5</u> xx

You need to study the opening lead and your cards and Dummy's cards to help determine whether 5 is low (Hxx5) or high (x5xx).



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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)

What shapes to think about: 432 = N

Singleton:	<u>X</u>	<u>N</u>
Doubleton:	<u>X</u> x AK	<u>N</u> x
L3: Low to H	Hx <u>X</u>	Hx <u>N</u>
MUD (no H)	x <u>X</u> x	x <u>N</u> x
L4+:		
4th Low to H	Hxx <u>X</u> ... -	Hxx <u>N</u>
Near top rubbish	x <u>X</u> xx... -	x <u>N</u> xx

You need to study the opening lead and your cards and Dummy's cards to help determine whether N is low (HxxN) or high (xNxx).



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Week 12 Play

Play

Divide yourselves into pairs and then into tables.

This week I may ask you to move.

NS have the pair number of their table, N has his back to the screen.

EW have the pair number of their table plus 8.

When you have played a hand, pass it to the next numbered table in sequence. The highest numbered table passes to table 1.

And one last thing – **as part of the learning process** – I would like the partner of whoever has just bid to take whatever action is **standardly required** (announcing 1NT to be 12-14 points, ALERTing a conventional bid, ...) – **AND ALSO** to give a brief **description** to the other three players on **what the bid means**.

Any questions?

Tea / coffee & biscuit. (20p)

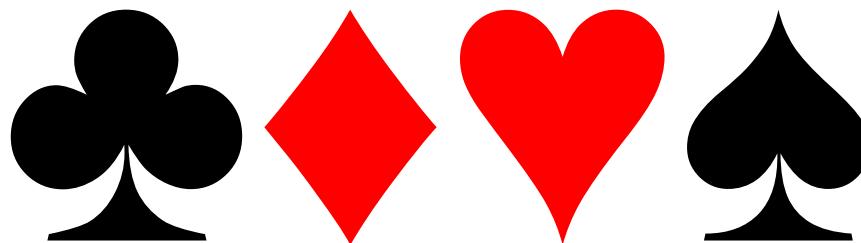
PLAY



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Week 12 Opening Leads (2)



The end

Week 12 set hand
references follow.



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Week 12 Travellers (even worse)

Despite saying I would check each traveller entry as it was done, I forgot to do so. The travellers were really bad this week.

I present a selection of anonymous bad entries from 3 boards – the others were just as bad.

WHY?

It isn't difficult.



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Week 12 Travellers (even worse)

Board 4

x	y	4H=	W 10	-	420	620 (All vul)
x	y	4 [✓] 2H+1	W 9 ¹⁰	-	140	Complete mess on 2 rows
<i>If you mess it up that much, strike through the row and rewrite at bottom</i>						
x	y	4 ⁻² H	W 8	200	-	Write -2 beside 4H, not above it.
<i>One row completely missing – not filled out at all!</i>						
x	y	2H+1	W 9	140	-	Wrong column
x	y	4H-2	W 8	-	200	Wrong column
x	y	4H	W 10	420	-	No ✓, 620 and wrong column
x	y	4H-2	W 8	-	200	Wrong column



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Week 12 Travellers (even worse)

Board 5

x	y	3NT	E	8	50	-	3NT-1
x	y	3NT-1	E	8	-	50	Wrong column
x	y	3NT-1	E	8	-	50	Wrong column
x	y	3NT-2	S	8	100	-	Declarer E
x	y	3N-1	N	8	-	-50	3NT-1, Declarer E, Col?, Minus?

Use NT not N, too easily confused with H

*Also Stay in "your" row. You **MUST NOT** overflow into the row above or below.*



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Week 12 Travellers (even worse)

Board 6

x	y	4S-1	S 9	-	-100	Minus?, W declarer, wrong col.
x	y	4S-1	W 9	-	100	Wrong column
x	y	4S-1	W ○	100	-	Tricks?
x	y	4S	W 9	-	100	4S-1, Wrong column
<i>One row completely missing – not filled out at all!</i>						
x	y	4S-1	W 9	-	100	Wrong column
x	y	4S-1	W 9	-	100	Wrong column
x	y	4S-1	W 9	-	100	Wrong column



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Week 12 Set Hands

Set hand sources

All hands this week come from

[AR:Leads = A Robson, Opening Leads](#)

===

Blue results from travellers

Red results are reference results.

Boards as played are rotated compared to the book / DVD presentation (which mostly make South dealer). Rotation defined by position of A♠.

===

For each board the reference opening lead hand is presented and the 4 preferred leads (according to BM) shown.

For ALL these hands the reference result is that the contract is defeated. Poor opening leads or poor play would permit declarer to make the contract.



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Week 12 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.			
2	E	N/S	AR:Leads#21				A♠=W
1	9	4H+1	E 11	-	450	Awful	
3	11	4H=	E 10	-	420	Bad	
10	2	4H=	E 10	-	420	Bad	
Ref		4H-1	E 9	50	-		

- S:J93 3 Low from honour – confuses with L4
- H:J4 J Top of doubleton
- D:QJ3 Q Top of honour sequence of 2 against suit
- C:T8653 8 Near top of rubbish – 10 is not an honour here



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Week 12 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
3	S	E/W	AR:Leads#23			A♠=S
1	9	4S-1	S 9	-	50	Yes
3	11	5S-2	S 9	-	100	Overbid, but defense good
10	2	4S-1	S 9	-	50	Yes
Ref		4S-1	S 9	-	50	

S:95

H:9742

D:AQ863

C:64

9 Top of doubleton

7 Near top of rubbish

A Don't underlead an Ace – prefer another suit

6 Top of doubleton



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Week 12 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
4	W	All	AR:Leads#39			A♠=S
1	9	4H=	W 10	-	620	Awful
3	11	2H+1	W 9	-	140	Bidding wrong, Defense good
10	2	4H-2	W 8	200	-	Yes
Ref		4H-1	W 9	100	-	

- S:KJ2 2 Low from honour – confuses with L4
- H:743 4 MUD
- D:K63 3 Low from honour – confuses with L4
- C:T986 T Top of honour sequence of 2 against suit, 10 is honour



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Week 12 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.			
5	N	N/S	<i>AR:Leads#12</i>				A♠=E
1	9	3NT-1	E 8	50	-	Yes	
3	11	3NT-1	E 8	50	-	Yes	
10	2	3NT-2	E 7	100	-	Yes	
Ref		3NT-1	E 8	50	-		

S:JT8762	J	Top of honour headed broken sequence
H:73	7	Top of doubleton
D:Q7	Q	Top of doubleton
C:753	5	MUD



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Week 12 Set Hands

Set hands

#	Dir	Vul	Source	Dir = Dealer, Vul = Vulnerability.		
6	E	E/W	AR:Leads#1			A♠=E
1	9	4S-1	W 9	100	-	Yes
3	11	4S-1	W 9	100	-	Yes
10	2	4S-1	W 9	100	-	Yes
Ref		4S-1	W 9	100	-	

S:T2 10 Top of doubleton
H:KQ52 K Top of honour sequence of 2 against suit
D:62 6 Top of doubleton
C:A9832 A Don't underlead an Ace – prefer another suit

Boards 7, 8 & 9 were not recorded, they were AR:Leads#2, #16 & #3.