

## Article 24a Answers to Quiz on Leads

This Quiz is based on hands from major competitions.

Answers with points will be given in a few days and a further three questions later. Check your scores against the Experts' views.

### Hand 1

N/S Game

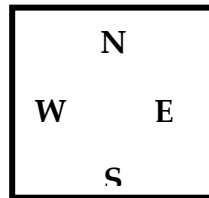
Dealer: South

♠ AQ983

♥ A

♦ K642

♣ AK2



W

N

E

S

1NT (12-14hcps)

Dbf

All Pass

What would be your lead?

Choose from: (a) ♠A (b) ♠9/♠8 (c) ♦2 (d) ♣A/♣K

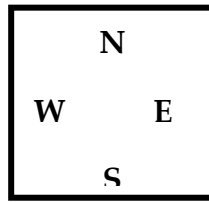
- (a) ♠A: **10 marks.** Why not 4<sup>th</sup> highest of longest and strongest suit? You lead this such that when partner gets in he/she can return the suit to you, hopefully through declarer's honours. What is the point here? You have 20hcps, declarer has 12-14hcps so how likely is partner to get in before declarer takes away your ♥A and makes a fair number of these. Since you are inevitably going to have to put this contract back by always leading from your own hand, you might as well lead ♠A and dummy may give you a clue as to what to play next. You get your reward because ♠J10 goes down, partner shows out and declarer has ♠Kxxx. Had you led the 4<sup>th</sup> highest declarer will make 2 ♠ tricks.
- (b) ♠9/♠8: **5 marks.** Second choice but inferior to the A for reasons given above.
- (c) ♦2: **2 marks.** Why lead from a poor 4-card suit before a strong 5-card suit?
- (d) ♣A/♣K: **7 marks.** That would be my second choice. You would lead this in the hope of setting up a potential long suit of partner's and it also allows you to see dummy and decide whether it is worth continuing. Should partner discourage continuation then if you see ♠J10 in dummy you can revert to the play in (a) and still put the contract back.

**Hand 2**

**N/S Game**

**Dealer: South**

♠ AQ65  
♥ 4  
♦ J1064  
♣ AQ103



<u>W</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>
p	2♦ <sup>1</sup>	p	2♥
dbl <sup>2</sup>	All Pass		

- (1) Transfer to hearts      (2) Take-out of hearts

What would be your lead?

Choose from: (a) ♠A (b) ♥4 (c) ♦J (d) ♣A

What now after partner leaves your T/O Double in?

- (a) ♠A: 3 marks. Why? Where are most of the points? South had opened. Your partner has left the T/O double so is unlikely to have quality spades. If anything S has a spade suit and N a shortage for ruffs. Why potentially give S a trick with the ♠K.
- (b) ♥4 : 10 marks. This is the stand-out lead, partner has passed suggesting he has a good trump suit and if a trump lead is not helpful to him why should he have passed? This draws trump and avoids leading away from your strength. It looks as if S had only 2 hearts. Your partner turns out to have ♥AQ107 behind dummy's ♥KJ982 so is over the moon with your lead.
- (c) ) ♦J: 7 marks. While a second choice it is not as good as a trump as it is always likely to give away a trick.
- (d) ) ♣A: 3 marks. Same argument and score as (a). What is the point and what are you trying to establish?

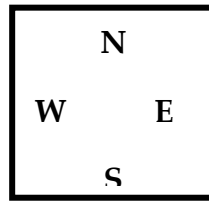
**Hand 3****N/S Game****Dealer: South**

♠ J7632

♥ J4

♦ KQ5

♣ 542

WNES

p

2♣

p

1♥

2♥<sup>1</sup>

p

3♣<sup>2</sup>

p

3NT

All Pass

- (1) Not forcing      (2) Invitational but not forcing

What would be your lead?

Choose from: (a) ♠3 (b) ♥J (c) ♦K (d) a club

What should be going through your mind when you have two opponents who have limited hands? South has bid 3NT. Is he/she the type of opponent who always bids 3NT? I would be thinking that he believes between N and S they have a club suit that will make a lot of tricks and your holding in the suit tends to confirm that; hence I would be looking for an aggressive lead to establish as many tricks outside as possible.

- (a) ) ♠3: **6 marks**. 4<sup>th</sup> highest of the longest and strongest suit, but how long will it take to establish this suit and can you do it before S makes his clubs? This only works if your partner has a good ♠ suit as well. Surely S is going to make 9 tricks based on his clubs?
- (b) ♥J: **1 mark**. Why are you leading declarer's suit? Neither do I understand that!!
- (c) ♦K: **10 marks**. Neither opponent seems to have 4 diamonds, so partner has at least 4, and as was in your mind beforehand you need an aggressive lead in the hope of making early tricks before declarer can establish his clubs. It transpires partner had ♦Jxxxx but fortunately has ♣K so this is a winning lead.
- (d) **A club: 1 mark**. As (b) why lead dummy's long suit?