

Board 1 Dealer N Vul none

N	E	S	W
1♣	1♥	1♠	p
2♠	all pass		

Lead partner's bid suit  
Lead top card of 2-card holding

1		♠ A864	Dir: N
		♥ K63	Vul: None
		♦ A	
		♣ QJ1085	
♠ QJ10	3	♥ AQJ108	
♥ 97		♦ 9653	
♦ J10842		♣ AK7	
♣ 942			
14	♠ K9752		
	♥ 542		
4 14	♦ KQ7		
8	♣ 63		
		♣♦♥♠NT	
		N 2 - - 3 -	
		S 1 - - 1 -	
		E - 2 1 - -	
		W - 2 1 - -	

Always lead partner's bid suit and, with two cards, lead the higher one.

This works well here as West can retain the lead with ♥9 and EW will make the first three tricks in hearts regardless of when dummy's ♥K is played.

East then leads the top clubs (NOT a fourth heart as that would allow South to discard a club loser) and if West has either a natural trump trick or is able to trump the third club the contract will be beaten.

Board 2 Dealer E Vul NS

E	S	W	N
p	1NT	p	3NT
all pass			

Lead longest suit against notrumps  
Keep leading the same suit

2		♠ 753	Dir: E
		♥ AK	Vul: N-S
		♦ K10984	
		♣ K62	
♠ Q8		♠ J1096	
♥ QJ1098		♥ 542	
♦ 753		♦ AQ	
♣ 874		♣ J1095	
13			
5 8	♠ AK42		
	♥ 763		
14	♦ J62		
	♣ AQ3		
		♣♦♥♠NT	
		N 3 4 1 3 2	
		S 2 4 1 3 2	
		E - - - - -	
		W - - - - -	

West has a clear-cut lead: the longest suit and the ♥Q, the top of the sequence in that suit.

Declarer will lead diamonds and when East wins he must lead another heart.

For East to lead the other top diamond now is **WRONG** (That is equivalent to a spectacular own-goal in football!)

After returning a heart, East leads his last heart on winning the second diamond trick, and West gets three more heart tricks.

Board 3 Dealer S Vul EW

S	W	N	E
1NT	all pass		
Play low in second position			

3		♠ AK10	Dir: S
		♥ 108	Vul: E-W
		♦ 7542	
		♣ J1064	
♠ 973		♠ 8642	
♥ K532		♥ QJ94	
♦ J63		♦ KQ109	
♣ A72		♣ K	
8		♠ QJ5	
8 11		♥ A76	
13		♦ A8	
		♣ Q9853	
		♣♦♥♠NT	
		N 3 - - 1 -	
		S 3 - - 1 -	
		E - 1 1 - -	
		W - 1 1 - -	

West should lead the longest suit even though these hearts do not look very inspiring (and lead the ♥2, the 4<sup>th</sup> card when there is no honour sequence).

East must play high but "lowest of equal-highest" that is ♥9 or ♥J depending on whether dummy plays ♥8 or ♥10 respectively.

Declarer has only five top tricks and needs to set up the club suit for more.

West must play low when South leads a club. To play the ♣A will crash partner's ♣K, immediately giving declarer four club tricks and nine in all.

Board 4 Dealer W Vul all

W	N	E	S
p	p	p	1♠
p	2♠	p	4♠
all pass			

Sequence is the best lead  
Lead the top card of sequence

4		♠ KQ87	Dir: W
		♥ J963	Vul: Both
		♦ 942	
		♣ 106	
♠ 62		♠ 93	
♥ K1075		♥ 842	
♦ 853		♦ AK7	
♣ KQ53		♣ 98742	
6		♠ AJ1054	
		♥ AQ	
8 7		♦ QJ106	
19		♣ AJ	
		♣♦♥♠NT	
		N - 3 1 3 1	
		S - 3 1 3 1	
		E 1 - - - -	
		W 1 - - - -	

The sequence makes clubs the best suit to lead and ♣K, the top card should be led. A low club lead would give declarer a bonus trick with the ♣J.

If any suit other than clubs was led declarer would draw trumps, give up a trick to the ♥K and then discard the club loser on the ♥J.

