

Bad leads – answers

1) 4 clubs or 3 hearts -3rd choice Ace diamonds

SO of the bad leads of a doubleton or small from a K which is the least bad ?

Most will go for the doubleton here and I will go along with them BUT might instead lead from a K if Im in the mood. Of course the auction may point you to one more than to the other. If you understand the need for an active lead rather than a passive lead then you will choose small from a K when an active lead is called for. ie if you think things are desperate lead from a King –if you think things aint so bad go with the doubleton)

2) 4 clubs or 2 diamonds -3rd choice Ace hearts

3) 4 clubs probably best

2nd 2 hearts -3rd choice 4 diamonds. [[you might not get this but if u have to make a “bad” lead , a lead from a K in a 4 card suit has a better chance in the long run than a lead from a K from a 5 card suit .]]

Some things you have to take on trust

4) 4 clubs or the 2 hearts or for a variation the Ace spades ?

Who can say? The Ace spades is the safest-the heart the most attacking (and dangerous) the doubleton club may be in between. Again most would plump for the doubleton and am happy to go along with them ...today.

5) Ace hearts or 2 diamonds. For me the 2 diamonds is better.

6) 4sp or 9 diamonds. Prefer 9 diamonds.

7) 2Sp . Preferable to 1NT. Anyone bid 2D.? Yes ? You admit it? Shame on you.

8) So partner has short clubs and approximately 10+pts and 4(+) spades.

Go for it -4NT Blackwood is the call.

Those of you who prefer Cuebids ...well you can but theres no advantage over 4NT unless you are thinking perhaps of going to 7 Spades.

Always use Blackwood UNLESS you have a wide open suit.

Whats that ? you thought you were wide open in clubs ? Because you know partner has a singleton club your side is not wide open in clubs.

9) Partner surely has KQ(?) in clubs but presumably thought it unsafe to continue clubs from their *side* of the table – leading a club back will be just what partner wants.

10)(a) you need to play a Bath coup and duck the lead of the K clubs. The leader who is probably wondering if she can change her hair appointment next week *and* get to Waitrose before Pilates will probably carry on with a club and both your Ace and J clubs will win. Of course the leader should have seen her partner’s discouraging club and have switched but leaders don’t always do that.

(b) This is different and more difficult.

In a sense you only have 3 losers (the 4 hearts + 7+ 6 diamonds) but that doesn’t mean you have 10 winners.

You should try ruffing your three clubs in dummy.

As you will need three trumps in dummy to do the ruffing you better not draw trumps (I can see you could theoretically draw 1 trump with the Ace spades if you really wanted to but I don’t think its best as you will see ..)

1)Win Ace clubs 2) lead 2 of clubs and ruff 3)Ace hearts 4) 3 of clubs and ruff

5)K hearts 6) j clubs and ruffyou may feel the need to ruff with the Ace spades.

7) draw trumps

