

Interior sequence leads vs NTs

On lead against 3NT you know to lead your longest suit.

So with :-

a)KJ54

876

Q76

J32

The 4 spades is the choice.

Seeing the 4sp partner will of course try to win the trick and if they hold the Queen or even the Ace then declarer will be in some troubles. More likely it must be admitted is that the declarer will win the spade lead and sometimes even with a low card . There is not much that can be said about this. It is perhaps unfortunate that declarer wins the lead so cheaply but at least partner knows that spades are our best suit and will return the lead should they get in.

with :-

b)KQJ4

876

Q76

J32

The K spades is the choice.

Having three touching honours the top honour is led.

The K spades is in a sense a "better" lead than the 4th highest as the declarer will have to play an Honour to beat our lead. There is no possibility that declarer or dummy can take the trick cheaply.

Leads a) + b) are the most common leads made against NT contracts.

There is a third lead though that can be made at NTs.

Look at this hand :

c)AJ104

876

Q76

J32

Already you may realise that the spade suit is "special" at least in the sense that it is a long suit with three *non-touching* honours.

If you did decide { incorrectly as we shall see } to lead the 4th highest from such a holding, the declarer may be able to win quite cheaply , with an 8 or 9 perhaps.

The correct lead is in fact the J sp. { And if declarer does win the lead , they will at least be forced to play an Honour to do so }. The J is definitely the best lead we can make from AJ104. The lead is said to be an interior sequence lead. Why the Jack (and not the 10 for instance )? The general rule is that with three honours *two of which are touching* , the top honour from the touching honours should be the card led.

Over the page we will see other holdings from which interior sequence leads should be made.