

What is the best time to lead a singleton ?

Well as we have seen the lead is going to work best when partner has the Ace of the suit you led { and realises your lead is a singleton } or when your side has the Ace of trumps.

We can say therefore that if the *leader* has a singleton *and* control of the trumps the singleton lead has a lot more going for it.

e.g 4S

	(dummy)	
	Jxxx	
	AQxx	
(you)	Ax	(partner)
Axx	Axx	xxx
xxxx		Kxxx
x		xxx
xxxxx		QJ10

- 1) Here we lead the single diamond (partly because we have the Ace of trumps )
- 2) Dummy wins with the Ace .
- 3) Dummy leads a trump (*which we win with the Ace* ).
- 4) Well we are in a position to get a ruff but still have to get partner *in*. {there is no certain way of doing so , but if you lead a Hrt now it is possible that the declarer will finesse and your partner will win and ...return the singleton lead for you to trump }.

Here is an example of how leading a singleton can backfire and hurt the defence .

e.g 4S

	(dummy)	
	Jxxx	
	AQJx	
(you)	AJx	(partner)
Ax	xx	xx
xxxxx		Kx
x		Qxxxx
QJxxx		Kxxx
	KQxxx	
	xx	
	K10xx	
	Ax	
	(declarer)	

On the lead of the Q Clubs the declarer will now definitely lose :

i) a club trick ii) a hrt (to partner's King ) iii) a spade ( to our Ace)

The declarer will also possibly lose a diamond (to partner's Queen ).

NB declarer *will have to play diamonds themselves* and may well finesse the J

Now look what happens on the lead of the singleton diamond.

The lead of the diamond *takes the finesse* for declarer ie declarer no longer has any losers in diamonds. Oddly , declarer now also doesn't lose a club trick {the defence is said to be a tempo behind -the declarer has time to dispose of their losing club on a Hrt or diamond}. Not only did the singleton lead not work it cost our side two tricks. Food for thought perhaps ?

