

Defensive plays -returning partner's lead in trump contracts.

The key to deciding whether to return partner's lead at suit contracts is to work out what high cards they hold in the led suit { and their likeliness of getting tricks in that suit}.

D) Partner leads a High card against 4Hrts

	{dummy}	
	Q73	
{partner}	AKJ	{you}
9 Spades	Q87	A842
	8432	96
		A632
		J65

Declarer has all the remaining high cards in spades. There is no possibility of getting any extra spade tricks so a switch is in order. A small club { leading up to weakness} is the correct card. NB its possible partner led a single spade in which case we would have been better off returning it for a ruff . Not a likely scenario though.

Di) Partner leads a High card against 4Hrts

	{dummy}	
	Q73	
{partner}	AKJ	{you}
9 Spades	Q87	A842
	Q432	96
		A632
		K65

Now win the Ace spades and *return* it . We do this because nothing else is safe.

E) Partner leads an Hon card against 4Hrts

	{dummy}	
	873	
{partner}	AKJ	{you}
Q Spades	Q87	942
	Q432	963
		A632
		K65

When you get in return the lead as there is a fair chance of getting a trick in the suit.

F) Partner leads an Low card against 4Hrts. *Compare these two examples.*

(i)	{dummy}		(ii)	{dummy}	
	873			87	
{partner}	AKJ	{you}	{partner}	AKJ4	{you}
2 Spades	Q87	J42	2Sp	Q87	J42
	Q432	963		Q432	963
		A632			A632
		965			965

What card has partner led from ? Usually a Q or a 10.

Will we get a trick if we return the suit? Possibly in F(i) BUT impossible ! in F(ii)

If you know no tricks can be made by returning the suit then switch safely if you can.