



Lesson 37 Teacher's Notes

More on Defence

Aims

- To revise our basic defence techniques
- To emphasise that the basic aim of all card play technique is to take more tricks

Content

- 1 Revise the content of earlier lessons on defence:

Third hand high, second hand low

Emphasise the difference between the Opening Lead and Third Hand Play

We lead **top of a sequence**, Third hand plays **lowest of touching cards**,

We lead **low from an honour** **Third hand plays high**, to win the trick or to force out a high card from declarer

- 2 Also revise defensive signalling.

Encourage/discourage signals

When partner leads a high card, (usually an ace), or switches to a high card during the play, we can signal whether we like the lead or not:

Encouraging (partner, I like this suit) with a low card, usually a 2, 3 or 4

Discouraging (partner, I would rather you tried another suit) with the highest spot card we have

We do the same with **discards** - low suggests partner play this suit, high says 'try something else'.

Looking for ruffs

When partner leads an ace against a trump contract he usually has the king also

If you have a doubleton you may score a ruff on the third round of the suit. So you encourage with your lowest card.

- 3 **Cover an Honour with an Honour**

Remind the class that there are no absolute rules in bridge.

We cover honours only when there is a good chance of **promoting tricks** for our side.

Even experts are not sure when it is right to cover and when not: that is part of the joy of the game.

Give this advice:

when declarer leads a single honour from a short suit: **cover** unless you have 4 or more cards

when declarer leads the top card of a sequence: **do not cover**.

(Of course, it is right to cover two honours when you also hold two honours:

eg KQ6 over J105; or AQ8 over J107)

You can see when declarer leads top of a sequence from dummy: but what about when he leads from hand?

A Rule of Thumb is that when dummy has two honours (AJxx, AQx, KJxx) and declarer leads an honour – cover with fewer than 4 cards in the suit

When dummy has only one honour and declarer leads an honour – assume it is top of a sequence and do not cover.

- 4 Introduce the maxims "Lead through strength" and Lead Up to Weakness"