



## Lesson 16 Teacher's Notes

### Essential Defence

#### Aims

- To revise Third Hand High Play
- To introduce “Second Hand Low”
- To emphasise the difference between Leading and Third Hand Play
- To introduce “Cover an Honour with an Honour”
- To explain that there is no such thing as an Absolute Rule at Bridge

#### Content

- 1 Make the point that in Bridge ‘rules’ are really only guidelines.  
Bridge consists as much of exceptions as of rules  
(This is one reason why Bridge computer programs compare so badly with chess programs.)  
Advise your class to follow these rules for defence *unless you have good reason to ignore them*
- 2 **Second Hand low, Third Hand high**  
Revise “Third Hand High” from Lesson 3 - “**Third man does what he can**”
- 3 Introduce “lower of touching honours”. Play the *lowest card* that will do the job  
Why? So partner knows you hold the card above the one you play  
Introduce “Surrounding Play”  
When dummy’s honour would make your sequence solid: - imagine you hold it, and play *lowest of touching honours*
- 4 Emphasise the differences between the Opening Lead and third Hand Play  
We **lead** 2<sup>nd</sup> top of a Sequence and Low from an Honour  
**Third Hand Plays** Lowest of a Sequence and Third Hand High i.e. play your Honour
- 5 Introduce **Second Hand Low**  
**Second hand play is like leading:** play *low* from honours so that partner’s big cards can do their work  
When declarer leads a low card from his hand (*or dummy*) you play a low card too  
If you play high you may kill partner’s big cards instead of declarer’s -  
“**Second in – leave it to him**”
- 6 **Cover an Honour with an Honour**  
When an unsupported honour card is played from dummy or declarer’s hand it is usually best to *cover* – i.e. play a higher honour.  
Emphasise the purpose of covering: to promote lower cards to winning rank  
Covering is optional, NOT compulsory  
Try not to cover when it will only help declarer

#### Rules of thumb:

When dummy leads an unsupported honour - cover Hx or Hxx when you have 2/3 cards

“**Cover shortage with shortage**”

When declarer leads an honour towards two honours in dummy - cover when you have 2/3 cards

**Do not cover** when you or dummy have 4 or more cards