



Lesson 59 Teacher's Notes

More About Signals

Aims:

- To revise defensive signalling – emphasise that every card you play carries a message
- To show how the second card you play in a suit also carries a meaning.
- To introduce the Suit Preference Signal

Content

- 1) Explain that the defenders must work together to defeat contracts.
But the only legitimate way to communicate with one another is by the cards that we play.
- 2) Revise Attitude and Count signals.
We use Attitude Signals on partner's Honour lead against a suit contract.
And our discards indicate Attitude to the suit we discard.
We use Count Signals when declarer (or dummy) leads a suit to give partner information about the distribution of the hand.
We also recommend Count Signals on partner's honour leads against NT contracts.
- 3) Revise the significance of the Opening Lead, and of Third Hand Play
Remind the class that Third Hand almost always does exactly the opposite of what he would do as the opening leader.
- 4) Look at the deductions Third Hand can draw from the opening lead.
And the deductions Opener can draw from the card his partner plays.
Introduce the idea of the Secondary Signal, the second card played in a suit.
Show how this allows a defender to deduce the layout of a suit.
- 5) Introduce the Suit Preference Signal, where the card played indicates a preference for a specific other suit. **Warn the class that this Signal is only available in very specific circumstances.**
You cannot replace your normal Attitude or Count signal with a Suit Preference Signal just because you would like to!
Illustrate Suit Preference Signals in the two most common situations where they are used:
 - a) to indicate an entry when giving partner a ruff
 - b) to indicate an entry when clearing your suit at No-trumpEmphasise that a card shows Suit Preference only when partner knows that you had a choice of cards to play.
A low card asks for the lower of the two possible suits (not trump, not the suit you ruffed!)
A high card asks for the higher of the two possible suits.