

Beginners' Lesson 8 : Balanced Hands

Board 9

North Deals
None Vul

♠ Q 10 4 2
♥ K 9 8 2
♦ 7 6 2
♣ Q 2

♠ 9 7
♥ J 6 5
♦ A K 8
♣ A 9 8 4 3

♠ K 8 6
♥ A 10 7
♦ Q J 10 5
♣ J 10 5

♠ A J 5 3
♥ Q 4 3
♦ 9 4 3
♣ K 7 6

West North East South
Pass 1NT Pass Pass

Lead: ♦Q

North's 1 NT shows 12-14 HCP and a balanced hand. South has 10 HCP which is not enough for game so should pass (South needs 11-12 HCP to invite game).

The ♦Q lead is the top of a sequence.

Declarer plays on the club suit by leading towards ♠K then a small club back to the Ace. Now lose a club to set up the last two clubs.

Board 10

East Deals
N-S Vul

♠ K J 7 4
♥ 3
♦ 8 6 4 3
♣ J 5 3 2

♠ 8 2
♥ K Q 10 8 7 5
♦ K Q
♣ K 8 6

♠ A 9 6 5
♥ A 4 2
♦ J 7 5
♣ A 9 7

♠ Q 10 3
♥ J 9 6
♦ A 10 9 2
♣ Q 10 4

West North East South
4♥ All pass 1NT Pass

Lead: ♠4

East's 1 NT promises a balanced hand with 12-14 HCP. West knows that East has at least two hearts and therefore they have a heart fit so should bid 4♥

Lead of a small spade promises an honour.

Declarer draws trumps then plays the ♦K which promotes the Q and J. This means a club can be discarded on the ♦J

Board 11

South Deals
E-W Vul

♠ 8 6 5
♥ A 10 5
♦ A 6 4
♣ K 5 4 3

♠ A J 4
♥ K 9 8 3
♦ K Q 8
♣ 10 9 6

♠ K 7
♥ Q J 7 4 2
♦ J 5 3 2
♣ A Q

♠ Q 10 9 3 2
♥ 6
♦ 10 9 7
♣ J 8 7 2

West North East South
1NT Pass 3♥ Pass Pass

Lead: ♠3

West opens 1 NT. East bids 3♥ showing exactly a 5-card suit and opening hand. This is forcing and West, with 4 hearts, knows they have very good a fit, so bids 4♥

Lead of a small spade promises an honour.

Declarer should draw trumps, then lead a small club to the AQ in East's hand. When North plays low, play the ♣Q hoping the ♣K is in North's hand.

Board 12

West Deals
Both Vul

♠ 6 3 2
♥ K Q J 10 2
♦ J 9
♣ J 9 7

♠ 10 7
♥ A 6 5
♦ K 8 7 6 2
♣ A K 5

♠ K J 5
♥ 9 8 4 3
♦ Q 10 5
♣ Q 6 4

♠ A Q 9 8 4
♥ 7
♦ A 4 3
♣ 10 8 3 2

West North East South
Pass 1NT Pass 2♠

Lead: ♥K

South does not like being in notrumps due to their singleton, so bids 2♠ to be in a better contract. North must pass as South's bid is a weakness takeout.

After North wins the ♥A, play a small spade towards the ♠AQ. If East plays low, play the ♠Q. When this holds, play the ♠A then target the diamonds. Start with ♦A, then ♦K then a small diamond.

Board 13

North Deals
N-S Vul

♠ 6 5 3
♥ 10 6 4
♦ Q 9 7
♣ K 10 6 4

♠ K Q 10
♥ K Q 8 3
♦ A J 4
♣ Q J 2

♠ A 9 4
♥ J 5 2
♦ 6 5 3
♣ A 9 7 5

♠ J 8 7 2
♥ A 9 7
♦ K 10 8 2
♣ 8 3

West North East South
Pass 1♥ 2NT Pass 3NT

Lead: ♣5

North knows they do not have a spade fit so rebids 2NT promising 17-18 HCP. South with 8 HCP, has enough to bid to game.

Lead of a small club promises an honour.

Declarer plays on spades to knock out the Ace and thereby promote three spade tricks.

Board 14

East Deals
E-W Vul

♠ Q 4
♥ 7 6 5 3
♦ K J 8 5
♣ A J 8

♠ A 9
♥ K Q 9 2
♦ A 7 6 2
♣ Q 10 4

♠ 10 7 6 5 3 2
♥ J 8
♦ Q 4
♣ K 7 2

♠ K J 8
♥ A 10 4
♦ 10 9 3
♣ 9 6 5 3

West North East South
1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass 2♠ All pass

Lead: ♦10.

West rebids 1 NT showing 15-16 HCP. East, knows partner has at least 2 spades so bids 2♠ as they have a fit. This is a weak bid, so West must pass.

Lead ♦10.

On the lead, Declarer plays low from West (dummy), hoping the ♦K is in North's hand and then ♦Q becomes a winner. Now play trumps.

Board 15

South Deals
Both Vul

♠ 5 3 2
♥ A 8
♦ K 7 3 2
♣ 9 8 4 3

♠ A 10 7
♥ K 7 4
♦ Q 8 6
♣ A K 5 2

♠ Q 9 8 6
♥ 9 5
♦ A 10 5 4
♣ J 10 7

♠ K J 4
♥ Q J 10 6 3 2
♦ J 9
♣ Q 6

West North East South
Pass 1♣ 1NT Pass 4♥

Lead: ♦2

North rebids 1 NT (15-16 HCP) and South bids 4♥ as they know they have a fit.

Lead is ♦2 from longest and strongest suit.

Declarer should draw trumps first, then play on clubs by starting with the honour in the short hand (♣Q). On the third round of clubs, discard a spade.

Board 16

West Deals
None Vul

♠ K 7 2
♥ A 5
♦ 9 7 6
♣ A Q 9 5 4

♠ 10 4 3
♥ 10 4 3 2
♦ Q J
♣ 8 7 6 3

♠ Q 9 8 6
♥ K J 8
♦ A K 5 2
♣ K J

♠ A J 5
♥ Q 9 7 6
♦ 10 8 4 3
♣ 10 2

West North East South
1NT Pass 3NT Pass

Lead: ♥2

East and West know they have enough for game.

Lead is a small heart from the longest and strongest suit.

Declarer wins ♥K (keeping the ♥A as an entry) then plays ♠K and ♠J.

Now declarer can cross to the ♥A and play the rest of the club suit.