

Beginners' Lesson 9: Pre-emptive Openings

NG34Bridge

Board 17 ♠ 10 3
North Deals ♥ A 10 7 4
None Vul ♦ Q 6
♣ 8 7 6 5 4

♠ A K Q 9 6 2 ♠ J 7
♥ J 8 2 ♥ K Q 9 6
♦ J 5 ♦ 10 9 7
♣ A 2 ♣ Q J 10 9

♠ 8 5 4
♥ 5 3
♦ A K 8 4 3 2
♣ K 3

West North East South
2♠ Pass Pass 2♦

Lead: ♦ Q

West has a good suit to overcall. North is not strong enough to bid and East's hand is not suitable to raise.

The weak 2♦ opener made it hard for EW to reach 4♠.

The ♦ Q lead is the top of partner's suit

Declarer draws trumps, plays on hearts, then clubs.

Board 18 ♠ K 7 4 3 2
East Deals ♥ A 9 4 3
N-S Vul ♦ A Q J
♣ Q

♠ — ♠ J
♥ K Q 6 ♥ J 10 7
♦ 8 5 4 3 2 ♦ 10 9 7
♣ K 9 6 5 2 ♣ A J 10 8 7 3

♠ A Q 10 9 8 6 5
♥ 8 5 2
♦ K 6
♣ 4

West North East South
Pass 4♠ All pass 3♠

Lead: ♥ K

Whilst East has a weak long suit, they can't open 2♣, so passes. South pre-empts 3♠ and North raises to 4♠.

The ♥ K lead is the top of a sequence.

Declarer should draw the trump then play diamonds (♦ K first) to discard a small heart or club.

Board 19 ♠ 4 3
South Deals ♥ A 8 6 4
E-W Vul ♦ K 9 8
♣ A K 10 8

♠ K Q J 9 7 2 ♠ A 8 6 5
♥ J 2 ♥ 10 5 3
♦ 4 2 ♦ A 7 6 5 3
♣ J 6 5 ♣ 3

♠ 10
♥ K Q 9 7
♦ Q J 10
♣ Q 9 7 4 2

West North East South
2♠ Dbl 4♠ All pass

Lead: ♦ 8

North double promises a good opening hand. East should bid 4♠ with 4 trumps. South has a difficult decision to make now and will probably pass. 4♠ is one down which is a good result as NS can make 5♥.

Lead is ♣ A, promising the ♠ K

South draws trumps and ruffs 2 clubs in dummy.

Board 20 ♠ K 9 6
West Deals ♥ 10 9
Both Vul ♦ A Q J 8 7 4 3
♣ 7

♠ J 7 ♠ A 10 8 5 2
♥ J 8 4 ♥ A 6 5 2
♦ 10 2 ♦ K 9
♣ A Q 10 8 4 3 ♣ 9 6

♠ Q 4 3
♥ K Q 7 3
♦ 6 5
♣ K J 5 2

West North East South
Pass 3♦ All pass

Lead: ♣ 9

North opens 3♦ showing a weak 7 card suit. South must not be tempted to bid, as their hand is not good enough..

Lead is ♣ 9 - top of a doubleton. No better option available.

North should play a heart towards dummy, then take a trump finesse

Board 21 ♠ K J 10 5 4 3 2
North Deals ♥ 10 8 3
N-S Vul ♦ K 8
♣ 5

♠ 9 7 6 ♠ A Q 8
♥ K J 9 6 4 ♥ A 7
♦ 2 ♦ A Q 7 5 4
♣ A 8 7 3 ♣ K Q 9

♠ —
♥ Q 5 2
♦ J 10 9 6 3
♣ J 10 6 4 2

West North East South
Lead: ♦ J 3♠ 3NT All pass

North's 3♠ bid shows 7 cards and a weak hand.

East should not be put off by the 3♠ opening and bid 3 NT with a good spade stop and a strong hand.

The ♦ J lead is the top of a sequence.

Declarer should play ♥ A then a heart to the ♥ J

Board 22 ♠ J 10 9 6 4 2
East Deals ♥ 3
E-W Vul ♦ J 6 5
♣ A J 5

♠ Q 5 3 ♠ 8
♥ A ♥ K Q J 10 9 7 6 5
♦ A 7 4 2 ♦ 8 3
♣ K 10 6 3 2 ♣ 9 4

♠ A K 7
♥ 8 4 2
♦ K Q 10 9
♣ Q 8 7

West North East South
Lead: ♠ A 4♥ All pass

East opens 4♥ which shows an 8-card suit and a weak hand.

This pre-empt makes it difficult for NS to reach 4♠.

The lead of the ♠ A is promising the ♠ K.

Declarer should draw trumps and lead up to ♣ K

Board 23 ♠ Q 10 8
South Deals ♥ K 5 4 2
Both Vul ♦ Q 8
♣ J 10 9 3

♠ 9 7 5 4 ♠ A K J 6 3
♥ 9 ♥ Q
♦ A J 9 7 5 ♦ K 10 6 3
♣ A Q 5 ♣ 8 7 2

♠ 2
♥ A J 10 8 7 6 3
♦ 4 2
♣ K 6 4

West North East South
Pass 4♥ All pass 3♥

Lead: ♠ 7

North's raise to game is solely based on the 4-card trump support. EW can make 4♠ but will probably find it too difficult to bid.

Lead is ♠ 7, second highest from rubbish.

Declarer can make 8 tricks. EW could have made game in spades.

Board 24 ♠ 9
West Deals ♥ A K J 8 6 4
None Vul ♦ 10 9 4 2
♣ 8 7

♠ K J 6 5 ♠ Q 10 8 7 2
♥ 10 7 ♥ 9 5 3
♦ A J 7 6 ♦ 5 3
♣ Q 10 9 ♣ K 4 2

♠ A 4 3
♥ Q 2
♦ K Q 8
♣ A J 6 5 3

West North East South
Pass 2♥ Pass 4♥

South bids to game with 16 HCP and a fit in hearts

Lead ♠ 7, 4th highest from an honour. Ambiguous ☹

Declarer draws trumps then plays towards the diamond honours in Dummy.