

The Minute that Matters

What to Think About Before Playing to the First Trick

Whether You are Declarer or Defender

ALT-P

- A is for auction
 - L is for lead
 - T is for Tricks
 - P is for plan
-
- Think about them all, they're all interrelated

A is for Auction

- What hidden gems are in the auction?
 - Consider these four auctions.
 - 1N (P) 3N all pass
 - (P) P (P) 1N (P) 3N all pass
 - (1D) 1N (P) 3N all pass
 - 1S (1N) 4S all pass

A is for Auction

- What hidden gems are in the auction?
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K103

975

K1093

A97

J76

AK102

AJ62

K8

Spade led

A is for Auction

- What hidden gems are in the auction?
 - Consider this auction:
 - 1S (1N) 4S all pass
 - Who has the queen of spades?
 - How many spades does LHO have
 - How do we deal with that?
 - West has 16 HCP. Can she figure out how many points her partner has at most?

K9754

3

QJ62

1075

AJ1086

A942

K5

98

Club led

L is for Lead

- What information is in the lead
- Ask opponents about their leads and carding
- Rule of 11 (4th best lead)
- What about honor card leads

L is for Lead

Auction:

- 1N (P) 3N all pass

How are clubs probably divided?

Can we afford to lose a finesse?

K103

J75

K1093

A98

J76

AK102

AJ62

K10

2C led (4th best leads)

L is for Lead

Auction:

- 1S (1N) 4S all pass

Lead:

3rd and 5th leads

How many spades does LHO have?

How many clubs does LHO have?

What is your best chance to make the contract?

What can you try if it doesn't work?

J9754

3

QJ63

K2

AK1086

A942

K5

98

Club 2 led

T is for Tricks

- Conventional Wisdom
 - Count winners when in NT
 - Count losers in suit contracts
- I recommend counting both

P is for Plan

- Develop your plan before playing to first trick even if dummy comes down with a singleton
- Deciding whether to win the first trick can be crucial
- Deciding which hand to win with can be crucial
- When defending, what do you lead when you win a trick?
- Use AL&T in formulating your plan