

Strategies for Successful Defense - Course Outline

A 7-Week Intermediate level Course taught by Mary Howe

Lesson 1: Sept. 19, 2024 - Make the Best Opening Lead

- Leading partner's suit
- The Rule of Forty
- Opening leads against No Trump contracts
- Opening leads against suit contracts
- Leading from 3, 4 or 5 small cards
- "Fancier" leads (leading AK vs NT, coded 10s and 9s, etc.)

Lesson 2: Sept. 26, 2024 - Teamwork on Defense:

- Analyzing your lead
- Third hand play
- Unblocking partner's suit
- Returning partner's lead. Or not?
- Applying the Rule of Eleven
- Developing good judgement

Lesson 3: Oct. 10, 2024 - When to Lead Trump:

- The Ruffing Game
- When to lead trump
- When not to lead trump
- Trumping in the short trump hand vs the long trump hand

Lesson 4: Oct. 17, 2024 - Signalling Attitude to Partner's Lead:

- Signalling with standard attitude signals
- Signalling with an honour
- When (and when not) to signal

Lesson 5: Oct. 24, 2024 - Signalling with Discards:

- Standard discards
- Things to remember when making discards

Lesson 6: Oct. 31, 2024 - Signalling Count & Suit Preference

- Count signals
- Trump echo
- Suit preference signals

Lesson 7: Nov. 7, 2024 - Second Hand Play. Lead Directing Doubles:

- Second hand play
- When to cover an honour with an honour
- When to split honours
- Lead directing doubles