

The lead of a king against a no trump contract

This lead has a special meaning. It says, "I have a decent holding in this suit but it might get blocked and I might not be able to get back in. *Unblock this suit by playing an honour card if you have one.* If not, give me a count signal" (see below.)

Count Signals – these help partner to judge how long to continue a suit.

- ♣ Play Second Highest from four cards followed by your lowest showing an even number.
- ♣ Lowest from three, or five followed by your next lowest showing an odd number.
- ♣ Highest from two cards.

West holds	East holds	East Plays	Why?
♥ A <u>K</u> J 10 8	♥ Q 9 4	♥ Q	Play an honour, as requested
♥ <u>K</u> Q 10 9 7	♥ J 4 2	♥ J	Play an honour, as requested
♥ A <u>K</u> Q 10	♥ J 4 2	♥ J	Play an honour, as requested
♥ <u>K</u> Q J 10 9	♥ A 3	♥ A	Play an honour, as requested
♥ A <u>K</u> J 10 8	♥ 7 2	♥ 7	Play high to show two
♥ A <u>K</u> J 10 8	♥ 7 6 2	♥ 2	Play low to show three
♥ A <u>K</u> J 10 8	♥ 7 6 4 2	♥ 6	Play high to show four (or two)

Put the cards out and play these sequences if you find it difficult to handle. Contact Mick at mclark2@gmail.com for any follow-up questions.