

Lansdowne Beginners Lesson 2 - Balanced Hands

Board 1

East Deals

N-S Vul

♠ A 10 9 7	♠ Q 8 2	♠ K 6 4									
♥ J 6 2	♥ 10 9 4	♥ A Q 8									
♦ Q 10 5	♦ K 7 6 4	♦ A 3 2									
♣ Q J 9	♣ K 4 3	♣ 10 6 5 2									
<table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>				N		W		E		S	
	N										
W		E									
	S										
	♠ J 5 3										
	♥ K 7 5 3										
	♦ J 9 8										
	♣ A 8 7										

8
10 13
9

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
		1 NT ¹	Pass
Pass ²	Pass		

1. 13 pts and balanced
2. <11 pts so no game on and no 5 card major to mention

1 NT by East

<i>Trick</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>4th</i>
1. S	♥ 3	2	9	<u>Q</u>
2. E	♣ 2	7	J	<u>K</u>
3. N	♥ 4	8	<u>K</u>	6
4. S	♥ 5	J	10	<u>A</u>
5. E	♣ 5	<u>A</u>	9	3
6. S	♥ <u>7</u>	♠ 7	♦ 4	♠ 4
7. S	♣ 8 ¹	<u>Q</u>	4	6
8. W	♠ 9	2	<u>K</u>	3
9. E	♣ <u>10</u>	♠ 5	♠ 10	♠ 8
10. E	♦ 2 ³	8	10 ²	<u>K</u>

1. S cannot lead Diamonds without risking giving Declarer an extra D trick, and the same with Spades.
2. N wins her King, but now establishes W's Diamond Q.
3. Having kept an eye on the discards, E can see that there are no Heart of Club cards left, so with the other two Aces guarding, it is worth a punt for an extra Diamond trick. Play low and cover S's card with lowest card from W. This should work unless N has K and J, and even then, E does not lose her two Aces.

Lead ♥ 3 4th highest

4 Winners (♠ A k; ♥ A; ♦ A), plus prospect of ♥ Q or J and both we take the finesse and ♥ K is with N (it isn't). In this case, S has helpfully led ♥ s (she wasn't to know) and this has given E the extra ♥ trick. Again, if ♠ s distribution is 3-3, then we can take an extra ♠ trick by losing early on. Odds are against it.

Better to lose 2 ♣ tricks and to set up 2 ♣ tricks. Losing these will give defence 2 ♥ s and 2 ♣ s.

As it happens there is also an extra ♦ trick provided N does not hold both K and J, and E leads to the ♦ 10 before cashing the ♦ A.

8 tricks: 1 NT+1 70pts + 50 for Part Score = 120 pts

Board 2
 North Deals
 None Vul

	♠ A 8 7		
	♥ Q 4 2		
	♦ K 9 8 7 6		
	♣ A 9		
♠ Q 10 6 2	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	♠ J 9 5	
♥ A 10 6 5		♥ K 9 7	
♦ J 3		♦ 10 4 2	
♣ J 10 3		♣ Q 7 5 4	
13	♠ K 4 3		
8 6	♥ J 8 3		
13	♦ A Q 5		
	♣ K 8 6 2		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 NT ¹	Pass	3 NT ²
Pass	Pass	Pass ³	

1. N has 13 pts and no void or singleton, and only one doubleton - so is balanced.
2. S has 13 pts. When added to partner's 12-14, this ≥ 252 pts, so enough for game.
3. 3 Passes and the auction is over - 3 NT by N is agreed contract

You have an 8 card FIT in ♦s, but you can't make a ♦ game (5 ♦ or 11 tricks).

Lead ♣ 4 4th highest in longest-strongest

7 winners (♠ A K; ♦ A K Q; ♣ A K + 2 extra ♦ tricks if distribution is 3-2).

Do not plan to play on ♥s, but if defence get on lead, and lead a ♥, then we only lose 2 ♥ and potentially win one.

So win the ♣ lead in N, lead a low ♦, noting that everyone follows suit on the second round: 3-2 distribution. Take care to win the 3rd round in the N hand with ♦ K, to be sure of being in the right place to cash the last two ♦s. Also note what the defence discards - you may be able to take an extra ♣ trick if 2 or 3 ♣s.

Now lead a low ♠ and DUCK - Defence should lead a ♠ back to avoid leading ♥s or ♣s, either of which could give you an overtrick.

10 tricks 3 NT +1 130pts + 300 game bonus = 430 pts

Board 3

West Deals
E-W Vul

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

♠ Q 10 5	<table border="1" style="background-color: green; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	♠ K 4 3 2
N					
W E					
S					
♥ A 9 8		♥ J 10 3			
♦ Q J 9		♦ A 10 5			
♣ J 10 5 4		♣ K 8 6			

6
13 11
10

West	North	East	South
1 NT	Pass	2 NT ¹	All pass

1. with 11 pts, E asks W if she is max *14 pts or a good 13) - she is not so she passes.

Lead: ♥ 5

Winners: 6 top tricks + ♥ 10 once ♥ Q and J drive out ♥ A and K; also try to make extra ♠ and or ♦.

Play low heart and let ♥ A win. S will lead a low ♥ (partner's suit). Again let the ♥ K win (or if not played then win ♥ J. When declarer wins a trick, she should play a low ♠ and DUCK - this will set up the 4th ♠ if the suit split is 3-3. If it is not, declarer has not lost anything. Declarer can then try the same thing in ♦s.

Board 4

South Deals
Both Vul

♠ J 10 7 5	♠ A 4 2	♠ Q 9 8
♥ K 2	♥ A J 10 9 7 6	♥ 5 4 3
♦ 9 6 5	♦ A 10 4	♦ J 8 7
♣ A 8 4 2	♣ 9	♣ Q J 7 3
	<div style="display: inline-block; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> N W E S </div>	
	♠ K 6 3	
	♥ Q 8	
	♦ K Q 3 2	
	♣ K 10 6 5	

13
8 6
13

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	1 NT
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	2 ♥

N could jump straight to 3 NT, but is worth considering a ♥ game if the N-S partnership has a FIT. So N transfers to S's hand in ♥s and then bids game in ♥s. If N only had 5 card ♥ suit, this might be a bit risky, as S may only have 2 ♥s (cannot be singleton or void to open 1 NT), but she has 6 ♥s, so knows they have a FIT.

Lead: ♦ 9 which if the 'top of nothing'. ♠ J also a possibility, but not a long enough sequence; bad plan to lead from ♥ K x; normal policy not to underlead an Ace.(♣ A), and leading the Ace promises partner the King.

Winners: 2 ♠s; 5 ♥s + 1 possible of King can be finessed from west; 3 ♦s = 10 +1 possible

Cross-ruffing prospects: no - short trump suit in S and side suits are equal in length or longer than those in N.

Board 5

West Deals
N-S Vul

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

♠ 4 3 2	♠ 4 3 2
♥ A 10 9	♥ A 10 9
♦ Q 5 3	♦ Q 5 3
♣ J 10 5 4	♣ J 10 5 4

9	♠	N	♠
13	♥	W	♥
11	♦	E	♦
7	♣	S	♣

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 NT	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠			

With 11 pts, E calculates that there may be enough for game in her 5 card ♠ suit if E is max and has 3 ♠s. So she transfers to ♠s and invites to game with 3 ♠. West has 13HCP and a 5 card side suit so it might be worth risking Game.

Lead: ♥ 6 asking partner to lead them back if the chance arises.

Winners: 4 ♠s; 2 ♦s; 2 ♣s = 8. Missing 2 tricks which can be picked up in ♦s provided split is 3-2. So Declarer should DUCK a ♦ at the first opportunity and at the next, ♥ K (finesse fails as King is with N).then finesse the

Board 6

South Deals
N-S Vul

	♠ A 7 5 2		
	♥ 5 4		
	♦ J 10 9 5		
	♣ K Q 3		
♠ 6 3		♠ K J 4	
♥ A 9 8 6 3 2	<div style="display: inline-block; background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> N W E S </div>	♥ Q J 10	
♦ 7 4		♦ A Q 6 2	
♣ A 8 6		♣ 10 9 2	
	♠ Q 10 9 8		
	♥ K 7		
	♦ K 8 3		
	♣ J 7 5 4		
10			
8 13			
9			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
	1 NT	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	2 ♥	All pass	

No point looking for game with 8 pts (8+max 14 = 22), so S signs off in 2 ♥, having transferred to the stronger N hand which remains 'closed'.

Lead: ♠ 8

Winners: expect to make 5 ♥ tricks, possibly 6 if ♥ K is with W; and ♦ A + ♣ A.
Can make ♠ K if ♠ A is with W; can also make ♦ Q if ♦ K is with w (it isn't).

Any cross-ruffing possibilities? No: the short trump suit, where you can make extra cross-ruffing tricks does not have shorter side suits than S.

Board 7

North Deals
None Vul

	♠ Q J 8 5											
	♥ A 10											
	♦ Q J 8											
	♣ K 8 3 2											
♠ 4 2	<table style="border: 1px solid green; background-color: green; color: white; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A 10 3	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
♥ K Q 9 8 5		♥ J 7 6 4 3										
♦ 9 4 2		♦ 10 5 3										
♣ 9 7 6		♣ A 5										
13	♠ K 9 7 6											
5 9	♥ 2											
13	♦ A K 7 6											
	♣ Q J 10 4											
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>									
	1 NT	Pass	2 ♣									
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠									
All pass												

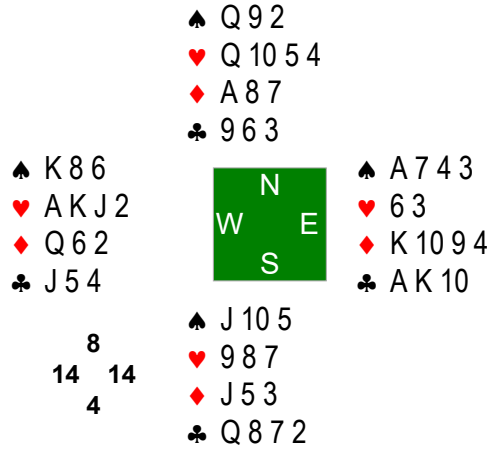
When E confirms that she has 4 of East's ♠ suit, East can go straight to game with her 13 pt point.

Lead: ♥ 3

Winners: 2-3 ♠s; 1 ♥; 4 ♦s; 3 ♣s. The third trump trick could be assured by ruffing the ♥ 10, but take care: you need to draw trumps before cashing your ♥ and ♣ tricks.

Board 8

West Deals
None Vul



8
14 14
4



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 NT	All pass

West has a 4 card ♥ suit, but may also have a 4 card ♠ suit. With 14 pts, East knows that game is on, but it is either in 3 NT or 4 ♠. By bidding 3 NT, she indicates that her 4 card major was not West's ♥ suit but ♠s. If West has 4 ♠s, she bids 4 ♠. If not she passes.

Lead: 4 ♥ ? Being 4th highest of ,longest asnd strongest? No, because N knows West has a good ♥ suit. So, ♣ 9 (top of nothing).

Winners: 2 ♠s; 2-3 ♥s (depending on finesse of ♥ Q - fails); 2-3 ♦ (if split is 3-3 : it is); 2-3 ♠s (depending on finesse - it fails). play the ♣ 10 from E and lose to ♣ Q. S will switch to a low ♥. That finesse also loses. Win whatever is returned and play the ♦s. Having LOST YOUR LOSERS, you have control and can try for the 4th ♦ trick by leading low from West towards the King in East..

Board 9

South Deals
None Vul

	♠ Q 10 6 5 ♥ 8 7 3 2 ♦ A K 5 ♣ K 7											
♠ A 7 ♥ 10 5 4 ♦ Q J 9 6 2 ♣ 9 8 4	<table style="border: 2px solid green; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: auto;"><tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr><tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr></table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 9 4 3 2 ♥ Q J ♦ 10 8 4 ♣ A 6 3 2	
	N											
W		E										
	S											
	♠ K J 8 ♥ A K 9 6 ♦ 7 3 ♣ Q J 10 5											
12 7 7 14												
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>									
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	1 NT									
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	2 ♥									
			4 ♥									
			All pass									

with only 12 pts, N is not sure about a ♥ game so invites to game with 3 ♥. S happy to accept game with 4 ♥, given her 14 pts.

Lead: ♦ Q promising ♦ J and probably more over ♦ s

Winners: 3 ♠; 2-3 ♥s; 2 ♦ s; 3 ♣s. The third trump trick is assured with a ruff of the ♦ 5.

Board 100
 South Deals
 E-W Vul

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

♠ A J 10 4	♠ A J 10 4
♥ J 4 3	♥ J 4 3
♦ Q J 4	♦ Q J 4
♣ A 5 4	♣ A 5 4



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
13	6 8		
6 8	13		
13	13		
Pass	3 NT	Pass	1 NT
Pass			Pass
	3 NT by South		

Lead: ♥ 6

5 Winners (♠ A K; ♣ A K Q), plus 2 extra ♠ by taking the finesse; if the ♠ Q location is guessed correctly, S makes all 4 ♠ tricks.

Also 2 ♥ tricks once ♥ A is taken out, and a ♦ trick once the ♦ A K have been taken out and even an extra if ♦ distribution is 3-3.

9 tricks and possibly 11, but have to lose 3 Aces. With these entries, is there a risk that defence can establish a long suit and take 2 extra tricks? Possibly in ♥s.

Plan to force out Aces at earliest opportunity, see if there is an extra ♦ trick by cashing ♦s and then take ♠ finesse for an overtrick.

Defence may already (incorrectly) have led ♠s which means E does not have to guess the location of the ♠ Q. If Declarer has to guess the location of the ♠ Q, she should try to ensure that the likely holder of the 4th ♥. There is a clue: if she plays correctly, W discards ♣ J on the winning 10♦ led from Dummy. This probably means she is hoarding 3 ♠s and the ♥ 10, as she will now not have any ♣s or ♦s left. So lead ♠j from S - if E has the ♣ Q you lose the trick, but not the ♥ 10 as well. W has the Queen, will duck the first round and S just leads the ♠ 10 - Queen falls under the Ace.

10 tricks 3 NT+1 130 + 500 = 430 pts