

NEVER UNDERLEAD AN ACE EXCEPT.....



By Marjorie Michelin

michelinonbridge@aol.com

KIT WOOLSEY SAYS:

“I don’t know why everyone makes a big deal about underleading Aces. It’s just like any other opening lead. Sometimes it’s right, sometimes it’s wrong”

ANDREW ROBSON SAYS:

**“If you remember one thing...
NEVER Underlead an Ace.**

I hear from students all the time chanting the MANTRA, I was told *Never to Underlead an Ace*.

I would say that most of the time, that statement is correct, however never say Never. If you are defending a NT contract, it’s almost always right to get your suit going. If your suit is headed by the Ace, why not lead it.

Consider the following hand:

West

♠AJ875

♥K65

♦1098

♣J10

Contract 3NT

Lead 4th best ♠7 – You have a good entry and a possible side entry with the ♥K.

Here’s another example when you might consider underleading an Ace.

North

♠9765

♥KJ

♦J1093

♣Q74

West

East

♠A108	♠32
♥A86	♥Q432
♦7654	♦82
♣986	♣K10532

South
 ♠KQJ4
 ♥10975
 ♦AKQ
 ♣AJ

Dealer: South

West	North	East	South
			2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After your club/diamond lead and Declarer plays trump, win your Ace. You see Dummy's ♥KJ, you might consider underleading your ♥A in tempo, and hope Declarer mis guesses! It is not likely to cost you losing your Ace for you know Declarer started with 4♥'s from the Stayman auction.

In the next example you might be taking a chance, but the auction lends itself to being the right lead.

West
 ♠AJ9653
 ♥98
 ♦KJ842
 ♣-

West	North	East	South
			1♥
2♥	3♥	3♠	4♥
Pass	Pass	4♠	5♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

After your Michaels call, your partner supported your spade suit twice. He is likely to hold the KING.

Lead your lowest spade, when his King holds, Partner will have to think why did you underlead your Ace?

Aha! You want a ruff, and a club ruff since you led your **LOWEST** club.