

East deals, NS

vulnerable. Two friends from the USA showed us Aussies how to play. At most tables the auction went:

<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
-	-	pass	1♥
1NT	?		

North your bid?     ♠ Q10863  
                               ♥ 5  
                               ♦ A75  
                               ♣ AQ107

The Aussie Norths showed me there is a gap in our bridge teachings, time to rectify. Advice: when the opponents overcall 1NT and your partnership is known to have the balance of power, double. Doubling the opponent's bid of 1NT is a penalty double<sup>1</sup>, and partner, unless they have a wild hand, will pass. North with 12 points doubles (do not make any other bid) and EW can do nothing except pass and take their pumpkins (it's Halloween) in 1NT doubled.

Against 1NTx, North led ♠6, and the best West could do was scramble 3 tricks, that was 800 points to our American friends Mark and Sharon.

	♠ Q10863	
	♥ 5	
	♦ A75	
	♣ AQ107	
♠ KJ72		♠ 94
♥ AJ72		♥ 1083
♦ K86		♦ 942
♣ KJ		♣ 98543
	♠ A5	
	♥ KQ964	
	♦ QJ103	
	♣ 62	

At some tables West doubled rather than overcalled 1NT, North with 12 points should redouble, thereafter NS double whatever EW bid. NS will collect at least 800 points defeating their contract. If EW do not bid and let South play 1♥ redoubled, South will make at least 8 tricks for 1120 points.

Club Results: Every Aussie North ripped up their winning lottery ticket and bid spades, next time I hope North will double (1NT) or redouble and collect at least 800 points.

After failing in my teachings on this board, I was hopeful of being cheered up on Board 17 where North pre-empted 3♠ which was passed out.

East to lead from:

- ♠ AJ3
- ♥ A1086
- ♦ 1097
- ♣ AJ10

Your lead? For my followers this is a no-brainer. I regularly advise not to lead a suit that is headed by the ace unless you also hold the king in that suit - lead another suit. This hand is a cinch, diamonds is the only suit you will lead. All the other suits have unsupported aces.

Lead a diamond, ♦10 is best, top of a sequence. But any diamond will do. Only three Easts led a diamond, fittingly they all held North to just 7 tricks. Needless to say, the other Norths were gifted 9 tricks by ace-leading Easts.