

At CHAT, I continue to see that some of us are still NOT using ATTITUDE on Partner's opening lead. I ask, "Why did you tell your partner that you don't like diamonds?" I get a stunned look followed by "I always forget that. It's OK though, my partner doesn't pay attention to my discards anyway."

There is a positive here. Partnership unity is very important, and this pair exudes unity. But you won't be playing with the big kids if you keep this up. I suggest you keep the unity while incorporating ATTITUDE into your play. It is a BASIC need.

I looked up attitude in the dictionary. I thought that might help.

*truculent or uncooperative behavior; a resentful or antagonistic manner*

Oops, that's a description of a couple of my partners. We need something better.

*a position of the body proper to or implying an action or mental state.*

*"the boy was standing in an **attitude of despair**"*

*Nuts! Again, I've seen this look of despair with those same partners (I thought we were playing in NT? Honest mistake, why the **attitude** despair?)*

Let's skip Webster Maybe attitude is something you can't define but you know it when you see it. We'll try to define it with an example:

Your partner makes the opening lead and is interested in whether you like the lead or not. You answer this inquiry with the card you play at the first trick (attitude).

Play your lowest card - you don't like the suit

Play a higher card – you like the suit

Partner can now decide if he should continue the suit based on this information. Often partner continues the suit.

This isn't rocket science. *This has to be a part of your game!*

You lead ♣A and partner plays the ♣8. Partner likes this suit. Sometimes this higher card is a "come-on" showing the top of a High-Low sequence (doubleton). Think about it and try to understand if partner is showing a doubleton and play accordingly.

Suppose the bidding goes 1♥ - P - 2♥ - P - P - P. Partner opens with ♣A. He should have the ♣K (leading unsupported aces is a loser on many occasions). You have ♣T5 and the board has ♣xxx. You play the ♣T. Partner continues with the ♣K, and everyone follows. Partner now knows how many clubs are in each hand (since he knows you had exactly two). He leads a 3<sup>rd</sup> club knowing you will ruff it and it will not be overruffed.

*Pay attention to the 3<sup>rd</sup> club that partner leads.* Partner is likely telling you which suit you should return at trick 4. Again, higher card → higher suit.

Here's to attitude and partnership unity! May they flourish together.