

**When the opponents make the opening lead, do you first win the trick, then look around to decide what to do?**

**RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO PLAY TO THE OPENING LEAD before thinking about what to do.**

**Look at the following hand**

**Contract: 3 Notrump**

**Opening Lead: Q of spades**

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

**If, without thinking, you automatically said “play low” to the first trick, down you go in your contract. A little thought will show that you need the king of spades as an entry back to your clubs once you set the clubs up and that you should win the first spade trick in dummy with the ace of spades to preserve the entry to your hand.**

**Remember: Think before playing to the**