

## Whist Rules in Rhyme.

If you are Playing Whist this Winter and do not Know all About the Game, Clip This Out

If you the modern game of Whist would know,  
From these great principles its precepts flow:  
Treat your own hand as to your partner's joined,  
And play not one alone but both combined.

Your first lead makes your partner understand  
What is the chief component of your hand,  
And hence, there is necessity the strongest,  
That your first lead be from your suit that's longest.

In this, with Ace and King, lead King, then Ace;  
With King and Queen, King also has first place;  
With Ace, Queen, Knave, lead Ace and then the Queen;  
With Ace, four small ones, Ace should first be seen;  
With Queen, Knave, Ten, you let the Queen precede;  
In other cases you the lowest lead.

Ere you return your friend's, your own suit play;  
But *trumps* you *must* return without delay.  
When you return your partner's lead, take pains  
To lead him back the best your hand contains  
If you received not more than three at first:  
If you had more you may return the worst.  
But if you hold the master card you're bound  
In most cases, to play it second round.

When'er you want a lead, 'tis seldom wrong  
To lead up to the weak or through the strong;  
If second hand your lowest should be played,  
Unless you mean 'trump signal' to be made;  
Or if you've King and Queen, or Ace and King,  
Then one of these will be the proper thing.

Mind well the rules for trumps, you'll often need them:  
If you hold five it's always right to lead them;  
Or, if the lead won't come in time to you,  
Then signal to your partner so to do.  
Watch also for your partner's trump request,  
To which, with less than four, play out your best.  
To lead through 'honours' turned up is bad play,  
Unless you want the trump suit cleared away.

When, second hand, a doubtful trick you see,  
Don't trump it if you hold more trumps than three,  
But if you've three or less, trump fearlessly.  
When weak in trumps yourself don't force your friend,  
But always force an adverse strong trump hand.

For sequences, stern custom has decreed  
The lowest you must play, if you don't lead.  
When you discard, weak suits you ought to choose,  
For strong ones are too valuable to lose.

A gentleman who had purchased a new bicycle gave his old one to an Irishman.

"You'll find the wheel useful when you are in a hurry," said the gentleman to Pat.

"Oi trust it will be a long toime till Oi can ride it," said the Irishman.

"Why, have you ever tried?" asked the gentleman.

"Oi hov," was the gloomy reply. "A frind lint me his. Oi had it three or four weeks, practisin' day and noight, an' niver got so Oi could balance. Mesif shtandin' still, let alone roide it."—Lippincott's Magazine.