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This elegant twin-pack of Piatnik playing cards ('White and Red Beauty') is the prize on offer in our series of quizzes set by Paul Hackett.

There are three categories in our competition: up to and including Master; up to and including Regional Master; and those with higher ranking. Please indicate on the top left-hand corner of the envelope, or in the e-mail subject line, the category for which you are entering. The first correct entry in each category out of a hat will win the prize. The Editor's decision is final.

Entries to the Editor, 23 Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LR, or e-mail elena@ebu.co.uk by February 20th, 2010. **Please make sure you include your full postal address even if entering by e-mail.**

BAKER TILLY BUXTON EASTER FESTIVAL

April 2-4, 2010

Barceló Buxton Palace Hotel



The Championship Pairs starts on Friday with a two-session qualifier, from which the top 28 pairs qualify for an all-play-all final on Saturday.

Non-qualifiers and others may enter the one-day Swiss Pairs event. The Swiss Teams one-day event on Sunday is open to all.

The Barceló Buxton Palace Hotel, conveniently located close to the railway station, is a wonderful Victorian building overlooking the beautiful spa town of Buxton.

EBU Competitions Dept
☎ 01296 317 203 / 219

PRIZE LEADS QUIZ

OPENING leads are often subjective and virtually any opening lead can be successful some of the time. However, bridge is in many ways a game of percentages and therefore certain leads will gain more often than others. In each issue you will be given three hands and the bidding on each, and you are asked to choose your opening leads. Suggestions and markings will be in the next issue. In each example you are on lead as West.



Paul Hackett

PRIZE LEADS QUIZ

Hand 1
♠ A 7 6
♥ A Q 8 7 5
♦ 3
♣ Q J 9 7

W	N	E	S
1♥	Pass	2♥	2♠
End			

Hand 2
♠ 10 6 5 4 2
♥ J 10 4 3
♦ A 10
♣ 10 7

W	N	E	S
Pass	2♠ ²	Pass	1NT ¹
Pass	4♦ ³	Pass	3♣
End			

- ¹ 15-17;
² Transfer to clubs
³ Splinter

Hand 3
♠ K 10 9 7
♥ 7 6 3
♦ 8 7 6 4 2
♣ 2

W	N	E	S
Pass	1♦	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT ¹	Pass	5♣ ²
Pass	5♦ ³	Pass	7♣ ⁴
End			

- ¹ Roman Key-Card Blackwood
² Three key cards including the ♣K
³ Do you have the ♠Q?
⁴ Yes, and extras!

ANSWERS TO DECEMBER OPENING LEADS QUIZ

QUIZ master Paul Hackett gives his views on the best leads, and marks them in order of merit.

♠ Q 7 6 5
♥ J 10 5
♦ 9 6
♣ K 10 6 5

W	N	E	S
Pass	1♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
Pass	Pass	Dble	End
♦9 (10); ♥J (4); ♠5 (3); ♣5 (1).			

The double by partner when your side has not bid asks for the first suit bid by dummy.

Thus the ♦9 stands out as the choice. The ♥J looks safer than a spade, while the 1NT response by South would normally show clubs so a club lead is high risk.

♠ Q 6
♥ J 10
♦ K J 8 7 4
♣ A J 6 2

W	N	E	S
1♦	Pass	1♥	1NT
Pass	3NT	Dble	End
♦7 (10); ♥J (7); ♣2 (1).			

While it is normal for you to lead your partner's suit, when you hear him double he is asking you to lead your own suit. Trust partner and lead a diamond. A heart lead may turn out well and a club lead is high risk as partner's shape looks to

be 4-4 in the majors with something in diamonds.

♠ 8 7 6
♥ A 5
♦ A 6
♣ A Q J 5 4 3

W	N	E	S
Dble	End		1NT
♣A (10); ♣Q (7); any spade (1).			

If we can make five club tricks we are guaranteed to beat the contract regardless of partner's cards. Thus it would appear obvious to lead a club. As you have plenty of side entries, lead the ♣A. This gains whenever the opponent's clubs are K-x opposite 10-x-x-x, and you can always continue with the ♣Q if dummy comes down with x-x or x-x-x. The spade lead is highly speculative, hoping for partner to get in and lead a club through.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS:

Master: Andrew Peel,
Horsforth, Leeds
Regional: Jeff Callaghan,
Haywards Heath
Open: George Summers,
Hemel Hempstead