

Answers desperate finesses

1) There are two finesses , equally “desperate” and ones we *might* yet try.

First though we should play the AKQ diamonds in order to see if the suit breaks 3-3. If it does you will have nine tricks with no finesses. If it doesn't *then* we will try the finesses.

2) The diamond finesse AJ109 -----876 offers the best hopes of multiple extra tricks. (Actually , finessing the 9 first and later the 10 gives you something like a 75% chance of 3 tricks in total and 100% chance of 2 tricks). That's the suit to play and keep playing

3) Well you are desperate already ! Take the club finesse.

4) Not desperate. Win Ace clubs. Draw trumps. Later unblock hearts and throw a club on J hearts.

You have to compare Q 3) + Q 4) and see that in Q3 there was no alternative to the club finesse and in Q4) there was an alternative ie discarding the losing club

5) Playing the 3 spades (yes the t-h-r-e-e) would guarantee the contract.

It would lose yes but your spade holding would now be safe from attack.

The player who won the spade lead perhaps with the 8 Sp could not lead a spade back without helping you.

[An alternative play at trick 1 would have been to play the Ace spades but that would not be so sure of success. Finessing the Q would however be the worst

6) a spade looks best- one reason for it is that you hold declarer's 2nd suit (the hearts) and leading trumps may reduce dummy's capacity to trump hearts

7) a) 0-----10 b) 11----12 c) 13-----18

8) 2C

9) (i) the J (after all it might win !)

(ii) the Ace (it would win !) Anyone who played the J in this 2nd question
Is guilty of finessing their partner and deserves the declarer to win at
trick 1 with the Q (possibly with Qx).