

Answers -extra chance play in NTs

- 1) the two suits that *might* produce an extra trick are diamonds (if they are 3----3) and hearts (if the Ace is placed favourably in front of the king).

To combine those chances we play a diamond , ducking it as good as anything. Win the spade return and play the A + K diamonds to see if the suit broke 3-3. If it did we have 9 tricks.

If it doesn't we return to hand and lead a small heart towards the K.

Was your answer as full ?

2) A FEW CHANCES :

Spades 3-3 (unlikely as that was the suit led but 36% in theory)

Heart finesse (50%)

Clubs 3-3 (only 36%).

If you could try only one thing you would try a heart finesse but time is on your side. 1st duck a club. Later test clubs to see if they break; if they don't try spades , if they don't break try heart finesse.

3) Draw trumps , duck a club. If clubs 3-3 the problem is over (you have 10 tricks). If clubs are 4-2 try diamond finesse. This is in total approx 68%

4) duck the spade; duck the next spade; win the 3rd spade; lead a small heart and COVER the card played (probably the 8 will be played so we play the 10; WIN THE RETURN Play the hearts. 9 tricks with no finesses.

"But all I had to do was take the diamond finesse. That works , you see ?"

Right.

"Oh I see , in case the diamond finesse *didn't* work you tried the hearts first ?"

Is that what they call combining chances ?"

I think so .

5) (i) Double

(ii) Pass

"err , you have got your answers to (i) and (ii) the right way round I suppose ?"

Yes.

(iii) 2NT

(iv) double

6) There is something to be said for NOT leading the bog standard 4th highest. Instead you might try the 9 hearts.

It's a made up hand so I cant tell you what worked but the point is that with a weak hand and only weakish 4 card suits one often prefers to (guess and) lead partner's suit. The thinking is partner (who has a few points) will probably get the lead a few times and may be able to establish their suit.

"So its because I really wont get the lead hardly ever again that I prefer to lead "partner's" suit rather than my own ?"

Yes.

