

Homework answers finesses

- 1) lead the 2 to the J ; reasonable to think that will win; then play Ace + King
NB because we had 8 spades we finessed for the missing Q
- 2) Play the Ace + then the K spades
NB because we had 9 spades we play for the drop of the Q
- 3) lead the 2 spades to the J. Assuming that won....return to dummy and lead the 6 to the Q. Then play Ace.
The basic plan when you need more than 1 finesse in the same suit is to keep finessing that suit.
- 4) lead the 4sp to the J. When that wins ...return to dummy and lead the 6 to the Q . Then play Ace.
NB there were a couple of traps here. Despite having 9 trumps we still finesse for a missing KING.
Also , after the first finesse won we should still return to dummy to repeat the finesse.
- 5) A number of finesses are needed so lets take them.
2 spades to the 10. That will probably lose. When you next have the lead return to dummy and take the next finesse ie lead the 6 to the J (that will win !). Now play the Ace.
- 6) 4spades to the 10 (probably loses). Next time you have the lead ...go to dummy and lead the 5 to the J
- 7) trickier perhaps. Lead the 2 spades to the 9. Now this will lose BUT you hope it loses to the Q (or K).
Next time you have the lead –go to dummy and lead the 6 to the J. That might well win. Then play Ace.
- 8) exactly same answer as to 7 above. NB that we have 8 or 9 trumps doesn't affect how we play. Still correct to finesse twice.
- 9) a mongrel finesse (if you wanna know). Lead the 2 to the J. When that wins...lead the Ace.
Anything and I mean anything other than that is wrong
- 10) 5 spades to the Ace. Then 2 SPADES TO THE Q. IE A CHINESE FINESSE.
- 11)Ok ...now we have 9 trumps and so you might think you should simply bash out the A + K spades and expect the Q to drop. And that's not crazy butlook at the bidding. East overcalled 4H. They have a lot of hearts (natch) and guess what ? almost certainly not many spades. This time you might well NOT play for the drop in spades and instead ... lead the 10 sp (running finesse); if that wins lead another spade towards the J.
Is there any science to back this view up ? Well a bit ! There's the theory of vacant spaces. To put it simply if a player is known to have a lot of cards in a suit they are less likely to have specific cards in other suits.
- 12) 3H (a reverse by responder showing 13-15)
- 13) 2NT (10-12) NB not strong enough to bid second suit at such a high level
- 14) 2H. 15) 3H
- 16) Well hope you studied partner's signal. Did you ? They played the 6. Their lowest heart.
That was a negative signal telling you partner neither had the Ace hearts or the J hearts.

Wonder why declarer let us win this first trick. One answer is that they are waiting spider like with a Bath Coup .
That in case you have forgotten is when declarer has :

AJ 2 and they duck the opening lead of the K in the hopes you are unguarded enough to carry on leading the suit.

At trick 2 switch to the 8 diamonds and give declarer a disdainful look.