

Planning out a Hand

(From Last Week)

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Three Passes to you.

What will you open???

♠ AK5
♥ AQT76
♦ J7
♣ K73

You have 17 HCP and are
balanced. Should you open
1♥ OR 1NT?

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

With five ♠ in your hand
DEFINITELY prefer the
major.

With five ♥ it is not so clear.

♠ AK5
♥ AQT76
♦ J7
♣ K73

Opening 1♥ allows the
Opponents to come in
cheaply with a 1♠ overcall.

♠ AK5
♥ AQT76
♦ J7
♣ K73

HOWEVER here my ♠ suit is so good I don't think they will. My hand is also better suited to playing in ♥ if we have a fit.

♠ AK5
♥ AQT76
♦ J7
♣ K73

I have mostly Aces and Kings
plus I have a useless doubleton
in the ♦ .

So I will choose to open 1♥ .

♠ AK5
♥ AQT76
♦ J7
♣ K73

Opening 1NT is not wrong
either but you will lose
your ♥ fit and ♥ plays
better on this hand so I will
enforce a 1♥ bid on you.

The auction continues...

	LHO	Partner	RHO	Us!!!
♠ AK5	Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♥
♥ AQT76	Pass	2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥
♦ J7	Pass	4 ♥	Pass	Pass
♣ K73	Pass			

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

The opening lead is the 2♠.
(Which really didn't help us at
ALL darn it!)

What do you do now?

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

First you must Thank your
Partner for their lovely Dummy.

Next you must figure out how
you are going to play the
contract!

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

In a Trump contract we count

LOSERS

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

We count losers from ONE hand ONLY.

We normally pick the hand with the LONGEST trump. We could do the other hand also but the hand with the LONGEST trump tends to have the FEWEST losers.

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Here we would choose our Hand rather than Dummy.

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

It has the most trump and should therefore have the fewest losers.

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

How many losers do we have in ♠?

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

1 Loser. We will have to
lose the 5♠.

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

How many losers do we have in ♥ ?

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

We could lose THREE ♥ tricks.

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

We could lose to the King, the Jack
and the 9 of ♥

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

How many losers do we have in ♦ ?

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

We could lose ONE ♦ trick.

We have two bad ♦ in our hand but the Ace in Dummy will take care of one of them.

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

How many losers do we have in ♣?

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

ONE loser in ♣.

We have the Ace in Dummy to take care of one of our losers but we are not sure about the other.

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

♠ 1 loser

♥ 3 losers

♦ 1 losers

♣ 1 losers

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

6 losers. That's quite a few!

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

But we have arrived in our contract and now have to play to the best of our ability. How do we get rid of losers???

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

HOW do we avoid our ♠ loser?

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

We can TRUMP our ♠ loser in Dummy!

(Note that some don't bother counting the ♠ as a loser because they will trump it in Dummy. But it is STILL a loser. That is how you will AVOID losing it. But you still have to take that into account!)

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

If we have to take out three rounds of trump will we have any trump in Dummy to trump our ♠ loser?

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

NO! We will need to make sure we still have a trump left in Dummy to trump the losing ♠.

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Let's look at the TRUMP suit...

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Dummy

 852

How do you play the  suit for
MAXIMUM tricks?

Declarer

 AQT76

Dummy

♥ 852

The DOUBLE FINESSE

Declarer

♥ AQT76

Dummy

 852

Play LOW from Dummy towards
the TEN in your hand!

Declarer

 AQT76

Dummy

 852

Hopefully that will WIN!

Declarer

 AQT76

Dummy

 852

Declarer

 AQT76

But if it loses to the King, you know exactly where the Jack is and will not lose another trick!

Dummy

♥ 852

If the Ten loses to the Jack...

Declarer

♥ AQT76

Dummy

 85

You will be reduced to THIS holding.

Declarer

 AQ76

Dummy

♥ 85

Now we are back to a SIMPLE FINESSE.

Declarer

♥ AQ76

Dummy

 852

Assuming the suit splits 3-2 (the greatest likelihood) then you will have

0 losers – 25% of the time (RHO has both the King and Jack)

1 loser – 50% of the time (RHO has one of the King or Jack)

2 losers – 25% of the time (LHO has both the King and Jack)

Declarer

 AQT76

Dummy

 852

Declarer

 AQT76

Let's look at four possible holdings where the suit splits 3-2 and compare the simple finesse to the double finesse.

	Dummy	
	♥ 852	
LHO		RHO
♥ KJ3		♥ 94
	Declarer	
	♥ AQT76	

Holding A:

This is the **WORST POSSIBLE** holding for you. There is **NO WAY** to play the cards to avoid two losers.

Dummy

♥ 852

LHO

♥ 93

RHO

♥ KJ4

Declarer

♥ AQT76

Holding B:

This is the BEST POSSIBLE holding for you. If you play this PROPERLY (the Double Finesse) you avoid ANY losers.

Dummy

♥ 852

LHO

♥ K3

RHO

♥ J94

Declarer

♥ AQT76

Holding C:
Another holding.

Dummy

♥ 852

LHO

♥ J3

RHO

♥ K94

Declarer

♥ AQT76

Holding D:
Another holding.

LHO
♥ 93

Dummy
♥ 852

RHO
♥ KJ4

Declarer
♥ AQT76

Compare the DOUBLE FINESSE to the SINGLE FINESSE
(The Single Finesse will be: Playing low to the Queen and
then cashing the King)

Holding A:

Dummy

♥ 852

LHO

♥ KJ3

RHO

♥ 94

Declarer

♥ AQT76

Single Finesse:

TWO losers

Double Finesse:

TWO losers

Holding B:

Dummy

♥ 852

LHO

♥ 93

RHO

♥ KJ4

Declarer

♥ AQT76

Single Finesse:
ONE losers

Double Finesse:
ZERO losers

Holding C:

Dummy

♥ 852

LHO

♥ K3

RHO

♥ J94

Declarer

♥ AQT76

Single Finesse:
TWO losers

Double Finesse:
ONE loser

Holding D:

Dummy

♥ 852

LHO

♥ J3

RHO

♥ K94

Declarer

♥ AQT76

Single Finesse:

ONE loser

Double Finesse:

ONE loser

	Single Finesse:	Double Finesse:
Holding A:	TWO losers	TWO losers
Holding B:	ONE loser	ZERO losers!!!
Holding C:	TWO losers	ONE loser
Holding D:	ONE loser	ONE loser

Comparing the two finesse possibilities you can see that the DOUBLE FINESSE is clearly superior.

Not only can it avoid any losers (25% chance) but you also rate to have only one loser otherwise. (Holding A you always have two losers no matter what you do.)

So we are DEFINITELY doing the Double Finesse in trump!

Dummy

Contract: 4♥

Lead: 2♠

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Back to figuring losers in other suits!

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

What about ♣ losers?

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

There IS a ♣ finesse available.

Definitely will try that.

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Any ideas HOW to do the ♣ finesse?

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

No idea who has the Q♣ on the bidding or the opening lead.

It is easier to play LHO for the Q♣.

If RHO has the Q♣ the suit gets blocked entirely too easily.

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

What about ♦ now?

How to avoid losers there?

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Well you might notice that the ♣ allow you to pitch a loser on the length.

So even if the ♣ finesse loses you will generate enough ♣ tricks to pitch away your losing ♦!

Dummy

Contract: 4♥

Lead: 2♠

♠84

♥852

♦A932

♣AJT4

We've got this planned out.

Now let's put the plan into ACTION!

Declarer's Hand

♠AK5

♥AQT76

♦J7

♣K73

Dummy

Contract: 4♥

Lead: 2♠

♠84

♥852

♦A932

♣AJT4

Wait let's just recap and figure out what order we need to do things in!!!

Declarer's Hand

♠AK5

♥AQT76

♦J7

♣K73

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Contract: 4♥

Lead: 2♠

In SUIT ORDER we need to:

Trump a ♠ in Dummy

Double finesse in trump ♥

Pitch a ♦ loser on ♣

Finesse the ♣ (Easier to assume LHO has the Queen)

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

What about REAL ORDER?
Which should we do FIRST?

Trump a ♠ in Dummy
Double finesse in trump ♥
Pitch a ♦ loser on ♣
Finesse the ♣ (Easier to assume LHO has
the Queen)

Dummy

Contract: 4♥

Lead: 2♠

♠84

♥852

♦A932

♣AJT4

Maybe think about where we
need to be to do certain things.

Declarer's Hand

♠AK5

♥AQT76

♦J7

♣K73

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Where do we need to be to play ♠

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Anywhere. You can start the ♠ suit from anywhere – Dummy or Declarer's Hand.

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Where do we need to be to play ♥

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

You need to be in DUMMY to play ♥

And you will need to get there TWICE.

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Where do we need to be to play ♦

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

We don't WANT to play ♦!

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Where do we need to be to play ♣

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Doesn't matter.

We can play a low ♣ to the King
in our Hand OR start with the King
in our Hand.

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

So the ENTRY situation is such that we need TWO entries to do the Double Finesse in trump.

What are they?

Possibilities?

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Entry by trumping ♠

Entry with Ace ♦

Entry with Ten of ♣ (if it wins!)

Entry with Ace of ♣

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

So which of those
entries will we use?

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Or to put it better
which ONE entry do we
want to AVOID using?

...and WHY?

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

You want to avoid using
the ♦ entry.

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

WHY?

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

If we take out our Ace of ♦
now the suit is wide open for
the Opponents to cash
winners in.

If our ♥ finesse loses they
will cash their King of ♦

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

So BACK to our ORDER

Trump a ♠ in Dummy
Double finesse in trump ♥

Pitch a ♦ loser on ♣

Finesse the ♣ (Easier to assume LHO has
the Queen)

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

We know what entries we want to use.
We have something of a plan.

Trump a ♠ in Dummy
Double finesse in trump ♥
Pitch a ♦ loser on ♣
Finesse the ♣ (Easier to assume LHO has
the Queen)

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

What should we do FIRST?

Trump a ♠ in Dummy

Double finesse in trump ♥

Pitch a ♦ loser on ♣

Finesse the ♣ (Easier to assume LHO has the Queen)

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

What should we do FIRST?

Trump a ♠ in Dummy

We want to do this BEFORE we take out trump so we still have trump to trump the ♠ with!

Dummy

♠ 84

♥ 852

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

♠ AK5

♥ AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

So we win the opening ♠ lead with our King. Play the Ace and trump a ♠.

Everyone nicely follows suit!

Dummy



♥85

♦A932

♣AJT4

We are in DUMMY.

What now?

Declarer's Hand



♥AQT76

♦J7

♣K73

Dummy



♥85

♦A932

♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand



♥AQT76

♦J7

♣K73

Yep. The DOUBLE FINESSE in ♥ .

Dummy



♥85

♦A932

♣AJT4

Play low to the TEN ♥

Declarer's Hand



♥AQT76

♦J7

♣K73

Dummy



♥8

♦A932

♣AJT4

The TEN ♥ WINS!

(I actually wasn't expecting that!)

Declarer's Hand



♥AQ76

♦J7

♣K73

Dummy



♥8

♦A932

♣AJT4

Now what?

Declarer's Hand



♥AQ76

♦J7

♣K73

Dummy



♥8

♦A932

♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand



♥AQ76

♦J7

♣K73

Yep – you get yourself BACK to that Dummy to try the finesse AGAIN!

Don't be trying to cash the Ace. RHO has both the King and Jack. You will lose a trick you don't have to!

Dummy



♥8

♦A932

♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand



♥AQ76

♦J7

♣K73

How?

How are we going to get
back to that Dummy?

Dummy



♥8

♦A932

♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand



♥AQ76

♦J7

♣K73

Might as well try the ♣ finesse.

We don't want to use our A♦ because then we will have no stoppers in that suit (we might lose the ♣ finesse) PLUS we might need an entry to our Dummy.

Dummy



♥ 8

♦ A932

♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand



♥ AQ76

♦ J7

♣ K73

Normally in ♣ I would cash the King first and then play low to the Ten in Dummy.

That helps if RHO has the singleton Queen.

But here I haven't taken out all the trump. I am more worried they just have a singleton!

Dummy



♥8

♦A932

♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand



♥AQ76

♦J7

♣K73

(I mean not worried so much that I will avoid the finesse...)

So I will try a low ♣ to the TEN in Dummy.

Hopefully LHO has the Queen.

Dummy



♥8

♦A932

♣AJ4

The TEN of ♣ wins! I am in my DUMMY!

Declarer's Hand



♥AQ76

♦J7

♣K7

Dummy



♥8

♦A932

♣AJ4

Now what?

Declarer's Hand



♥AQ76

♦J7

♣K7

Dummy



♥8

♦A932

♣AJ4

Declarer's Hand



♥AQ76

♦J7

♣K7

Yes. Take out the TRUMP.

Try your second finesse.

Dummy



♥8

♦A932

♣AJ4

Declarer's Hand



♥AQ76

♦J7

♣K7

When you play a ♥ RHO plays the Jack. This is a good sign.

Dummy



♦ A932

♣ AJ4

Declarer's Hand



♥ A76

♦ J7

♣ K7

You try your Queen and it wins! Plus both RHO and LHO played trump.

There is only one trump left and you can take it out!

Dummy



♦ A932

♣ AJ4

Declarer's Hand



♥ A76

♦ J7

♣ K7

You cash your Ace ♥ and you have to play from Dummy.

What card do you throw away?

Dummy



♦ A932

♣ AJ4

Declarer's Hand



♥ A76

♦ J7

♣ K7

DON'T throw away the ♣ !

You will need that one later on!

Dummy



♦ A93

♣ AJ4

So play your A  throwing
away a useless  .

Declarer's Hand



♥ 76

♦ J7

♣ K7

Dummy



♦ A93

♣ AJ4

Now what?

Declarer's Hand



♥ 76

♦ J7

♣ K7

Dummy



♦ A93

♣ AJ4

Declarer's Hand



♥ 76

♦ J7

♣ K7

Best play is to play HIGH CARDS
from the short side in ♣ .

So cash the KING and then play a
low ♣ towards the JACK in Dummy.

Dummy



♦ A93

♣ A

The Jack WINS.

You are in Dummy.

Declarer's Hand



♥ 76

♦ J7



Dummy



♦ A93

♣ A

Declarer's Hand



♥ 76

♦ J7



Now you can throw away your ♦
loser on the Ace of ♣

Here are the FOUR hands:

	Dummy	
	♠ 84	
	♥ 852	
	♦ A932	
	♣ AJT4	
		Declarer
		♠ AK5
		♥ AQT76
		♦ J7
		♣ K73
LHO		RHO
♠ Q932		♠ JT76
♥ 93		♥ KJ4
♦ KT		♦ Q8654
♣ Q9652		♣ 8

We were EXTREMELY lucky on this one to take ALL those tricks but we still had to play it well to make.

Good job we planned it out!

Okay that was a TOUGH ONE to figure out...

Note that there was A LOT going on in this hand!

HOWEVER breaking down the steps you can see that each step was not that hard to figure out.

Nor was the order in which to do them.

You just need to take a little time at the beginning to PLAN OUT THE PLAY.

Even if you had just started with

TRUMP a 

And do the DOUBLE FINESSE in 

The pitching away of the  loser and  finesse would come naturally over the playing out of the hand...

GOOD LUCK TONIGHT!!!

HAVE FUN!!!

