Planning out a Hand (From Last Week)

AK5

AQT76

J7

♣ K73

Three Passes to you.

What will you open???



AQT76

♦ J7

♣ K73

You have 17 HCP and are balanced. Should you open

1 OR 1NT?



AQT76



♣ K73

With five n in your hand DEFINITELY prefer the major.

With five \(\psi\) it is not so clear.

- AK5
- AQT76
- **♦** J7
- ♣ K73

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









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.









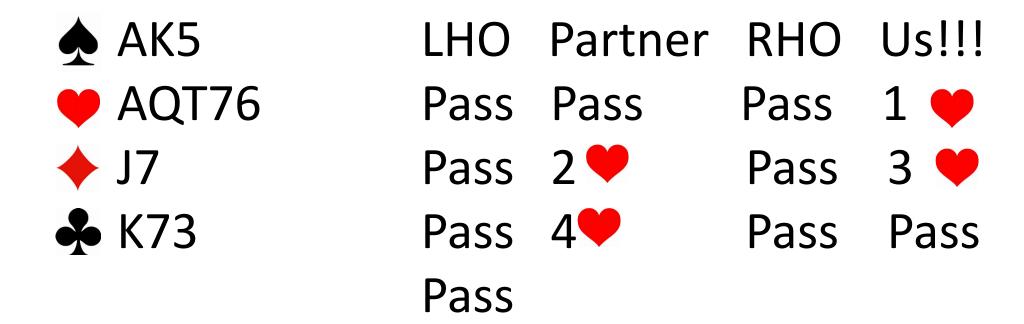
I have mostly Aces and Kings plus I have a useless doubleton in the .

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...



- **★**84
- **9**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?

- **★84**
- **9**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!

- **♦** 84
- **9** 852
- **♦** A932
- AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♦** AK5
- **♥** AQT76
- **♦** J7
- ♣ K73

In a Trump contract we count

LOSERS

- **♦** 84
- **9** 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.

- **♦** 84
- **9** 852
- **♦** A932
- AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♦** AK5
- **♥** AQT76
- **→** J7
- ♣ K73

Here we would choose our Hand rather than Dummy.

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

- **♦** 84
- **9** 852
- **♦** A932
- AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♦** AK5
- AQT76
- **♦** J7
- ♣ K73

How many losers do we have in •?

- **♦** 84
- **9** 852
- **♦** A932
- AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- ♠ AK5
- AQT76
- **♦** J7
- ♣ K73

1 Loser. We will have to lose the 5♠.

- **★** 84
- **9** 852
- **♦** A932
- AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♦** AK5
- **♥** AQT76
- **♦** J7
- ♣ K73

How many losers do we have in ??

- **♦** 84
- **9** 852
- **♦** A932
- AJT4

We could lose THREE tricks.

Declarer's Hand

- **♦** AK5
- **♥** AQT76
- **♦** J7
- ♣ K73

- **♦** 84
- **9** 852
- **♦** A932
- AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♦** AK5
- **♥** AQT76
- **♦** J7
- ♣ K73

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

- **♦** 84
- **9** 852
- **♦** A932
- AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♦** AK5
- **♥** AQT76
- **♦** J7
- ♣ K73

How many losers do we have in ♦?

- **♦** 84
- **9** 852
- **♦** A932
- AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- ♠ AK5
- **♥** AQT76
- **→** J7
- ♣ K73

We could lose ONE \rightarrow trick.

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

- **♦** 84
- **9** 852
- **♦** A932
- ♣ AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♦** AK5
- AQT76
- **♦** J7
- ♣ K73

How many losers do we have in ??

- **♦** 84
- **9** 852
- **♦** A932
- AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- ♠ AK5
- **♥** AQT76
- **♦** J7
- ♣ K73

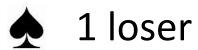
ONE loser in .

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

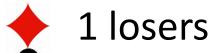
- **♦** 84
- **9** 852
- **♦** A932
- AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♠** AK5
- **♥** AQT76
- **♦** J7
- ♣ K73







1 losers

- **♦** 84
- **9** 852
- **♦** A932
- AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♦** AK5
- AQT76
- **♦** J7
- ♣ K73

6 losers. That's quite a few!

- **♦** 84
- **9** 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???

- **♦** 84
- **9** 852
- **♦** A932
- AJT4

HOW do we avoid our • loser?



Declarer's Hand

- **♦** AK5
- **♥** AQT76
- **♦** J7
- ♣ K73

- **♦** 84
- **9** 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!)

- **♦** 84
- **9** 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?

- **♦** 84
- **9** 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 .

- **♦** 84
- **9** 852
- **♦** A932
- AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♦** AK5
- **♥** AQT76
- **♦** J7
- ♣ K73

Let's look at the TRUMP suit...



How do you play the suit for MAXIMUM tricks?

Declarer AQT76



The DOUBLE FINESSE

Declarer





Play LOW from Dummy towards the TEN in your hand!

Declarer AQT76



Hopefully that will WIN!

Declarer AQT76



Declarer AQT76

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



If the Ten loses to the Jack...

Declarer AQT76



You will be reduced to THIS holding.

Declarer





Now we are back to a SIMPLE FINESSE.

Declarer





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)

Assuming the suit splits 3-2 (the

greatest likelihood) then you will have

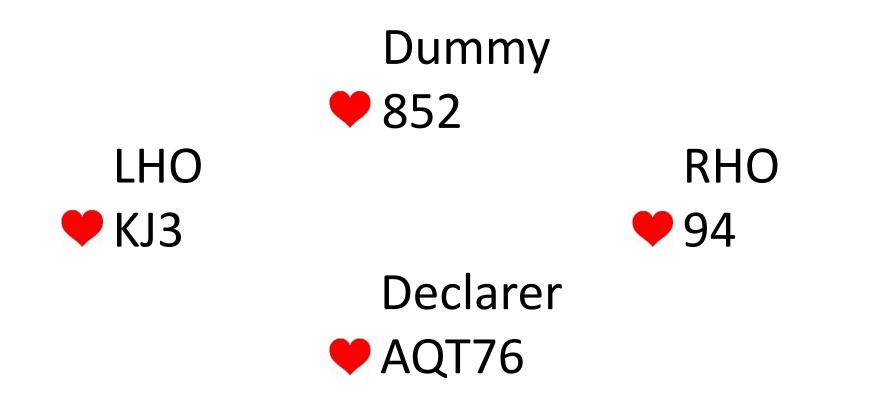
0 losers – 25% of the time (RHO has

Declarer AQT76



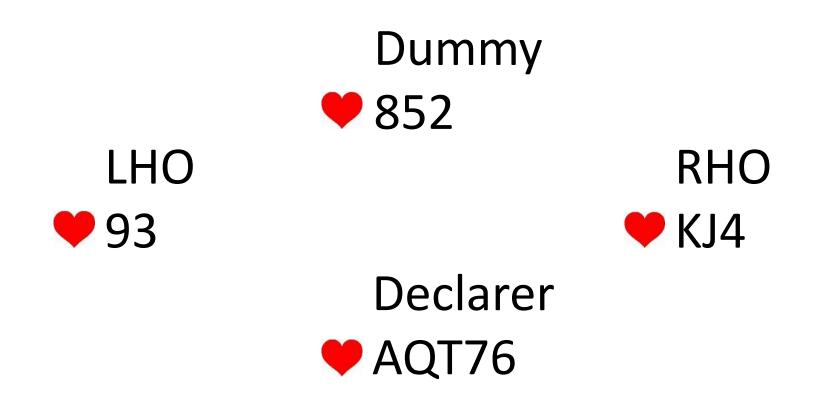
Declarer AQT76

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



Holding A:

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



Holding B:

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



Holding C: Another holding.



Holding D: Another holding.



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

9 852

LHO

KJ3

RHO

94

Declarer

AQT76

Single Finesse:

TWO losers

Double Finesse:

TWO losers

Holding B:

Dummy

9 852

LHO

93

RHO

V KJ4

Declarer

AQT76

Single Finesse:

ONE losers

Double Finesse:

ZERO losers

Holding C:

Dummy

9 852

LHO

HO

% K3

9 J94

RHO

Declarer

AQT76

Single Finesse:

TWO losers

Double Finesse:

ONE loser

Holding D:

Dummy

9 852

LHO

9 13

RHO

♥ K94

Declarer

AQT76

Single Finesse:

ONE loser

Double Finesse:

ONE loser

Single Finesse: Double Finesse:

Holding A: TWO losers TWO losers

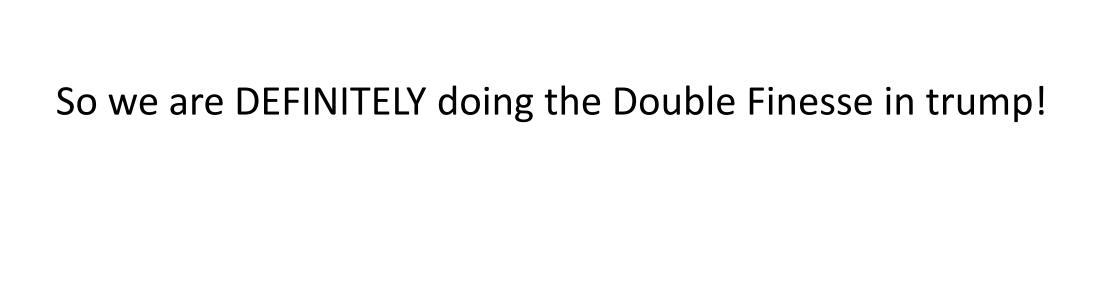
Holding B: ONE loser ZERO losers!!!

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.)



Contract: 4

Lead: 2♠

- **♦** 84
- **9** 852
- **♦** A932
- ♣ AJT4

Back to figuring losers in other suits!

Declarer's Hand

- **♦** AK5
- AQT76
- **♦** J7
- ♣ K73

- **♦** 84
- **9** 852
- **♦** A932
- AJT4

What about & losers?

Declarer's Hand

- **♦** AK5
- AQT76
- **♦** J7
- ♣ K73

- **♦** 84
- **9** 852
- **♦** A932
- AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♦** AK5
- **♥** AQT76
- **♦** J7
- ♣ K73

There IS a 4 finesse available.

Definitely will try that.

- **♦** 84
- **9** 852
- **♦** A932
- AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♦** AK5
- **♥** AQT76
- **♦** J7
- ♣ K73

Any ideas HOW to do the 4 finesse?

- **♦** 84
- **9** 852
- **♦** A932
- AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♦** AK5
- **♥** AQT76
- **♦** J7
- ♣ K73

No idea who has the Q no 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.

- **♦** 84
- **9** 852
- **♦** A932
- AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♦** AK5
- **♥** AQT76
- **♦** J7
- ♣ K73

What about ♦ now?

How to avoid losers there?

- **♦** 84
- **9** 852
- **♦** A932
- AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- ♠ AK5
- **♥** AQT76
- **♦** J7
- ♣ K73

Well you might notice that the 4 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 ♦!

Contract: 4

Lead: 2♠

- **★**84
- **9**852
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♠**AK5
- ♥AQT76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K73

We've got this planned out.

Now let's put the plan into ACTION!

Contract: 4♥

Lead: 2♠

- **★**84
- **9**852
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♠**AK5
- ♥AQT76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K73

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

- **★84**
- **9**852
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♠**AK5
- ♥AQT76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K73

Contract: 4♥

In SUIT ORDER we need to:

Trump a 🏚 in Dummy

Double finesse in trump

Pitch a
loser on

Lead: 2♠

- **★84**
- **9**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)

Contract: 4♥

Lead: 2♠

- **★**84
- **9**852
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♠**AK5
- ♥AQT76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K73

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

- **★**84
- **9**852
- **♦**A932
- AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♠** AK5
- ♥AQT76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K73



- **★**84
- **9**852
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **★**AK5
- ♥AQT76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K73

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

- **★**84
- **9**852
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **★**AK5
- ♥AQT76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K73

Where do we need to be to play 💙

- **★**84
- **9**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.

- **★**84
- **9**852
- **♦**A932
- AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♠** AK5
- ♥AQT76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K73

Where do we need to be to play 🔷



- **★**84
- **9**852
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **★**AK5
- ♥AQT76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K73

We don't WANT to play •!

- **★**84
- **9**852
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **★**AK5
- ♥AQT76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K73

Where do we need to be to play &

- **★**84
- **9**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.

- **★84**
- **9**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?

- **★**84
- **9**852
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♠**AK5
- ♥AQT76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K73

Entry by trumping \spadesuit

Entry with Ace 🔷

Entry with Ten of • (if it wins!)

Entry with Ace of 💠

- **★84**
- **9**852
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **★**AK5
- ♥AQT76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K73

So which of those entries will we use?

- **★**84
- **9**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?

- **★84**
- **9**852
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **★**AK5
- ♥AQT76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K73

You want to avoid using the \blacklozenge entry.

WHY?

- **★**84
- **9**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

- **★84**
- **9**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)

- **★84**
- **9**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)

- **★84**
- **9**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 ♣

- **★84**
- **9**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!

- **★84**
- **9**852
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♠**AK5
- ♥AQT76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K73

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

Everyone nicely follows suit!

- **9**85
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- ♥AQT76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K73

We are in DUMMY.

What now?

- **9**85
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- ♥AQT76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K73

Yep. The DOUBLE FINESSE in 💛 .

- **9**85
- **♦**A932
- AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- ♥AQT76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K73

Play low to the TEN 💛



- **9**8
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- **♥**AQ76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K73

The TEN WINS!

(I actually wasn't expecting that!)

- **9**8
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- ♥AQ76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K73

Now what?



- **9**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!

- **9**8
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- ♥AQ76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K73

How?

How are we going to get back to that Dummy?

- **9**8
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- lack
- ♥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.



98

♦A932

♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand



♥AQ76

♦J7

♣K73

Normally in Twould 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!

- **9**8
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJT4

Declarer's Hand

- lack
- ♥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.

- **9**8
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJ4

Declarer's Hand

- ♥AQ76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K7

The TEN of \clubsuit wins! I am in my DUMMY!

- **9**8
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJ4

Now what?

Declarer's Hand

- ♥AQ76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K7

- **9**8
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJ4

Declarer's Hand

- ♥AQ76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K7

Yes. Take out the TRUMP.

Try your second finesse.

- **98**
- **♦**A932
- ♣AJ4

Declarer's Hand

- **♥**AQ76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K7

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





- **♦**A932
- ♣AJ4

Declarer's Hand



- **A**76
- **♦**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!





- **♦**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?





- **♦**A932
- ♣AJ4

Declarer's Hand



- **♥**A76
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K7

DON'T throw away the • !

You will need that one later on!





- **♦**A93
- ♣AJ4

Declarer's Hand



- **7**6
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K7

So play your A throwing away a useless .





- **♦**A93
- ♣AJ4

Declarer's Hand



- **7**6
- **♦**J7
- **♣**K7

Now what?





- **♦**A93
- AJ4

Declarer's Hand



- **7**6
- **♦**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.









Declarer's Hand



76





The Jack WINS.

You are in Dummy.









Declarer's Hand



76

♦J7



Now you can throw away your \blacklozenge loser on the Ace of \clubsuit

Here are the FOUR hands:

Dummy

★84

9852

♦ A932

AJT4

RHO

♦JT76

♥KJ4

♦Q8654

\$8

LHO

♠ Q932

93

♦KT

♣Q9652

Declarer

♠AK5

♥AQT76

♦J7

♣K73

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 秦

And do the DOUBLE FINESSE in 🗡

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

GOOD LUCK TONIGHT!!!

HAVE FUN!!!