Avoiding finesses -advanced.

We have seen in the past that if a finesse can be delayed then that is usually to our advantage.

So with 543 ----------AKJ ; if this suit is led it is best to win with the Ace and not take the finesse until we decide we want to.

Suppose the 2 was led at No Trumps and you had this holding :

```
                          AQ3
2 ---------------------->  |
                          65
```

let us say further that you are not too happy about this lead and would prefer not to make a decision { whether to finesse} straight away.

Well there is a solution.

On the lead of the 2 simply play the 3 ....

Now obviously you will lose this trick but you will have retained your AQ and can later finesse if you wish.

```
                          AQ(3)
ie   (4) ---------------->  |   ----------> ( J ) wins
                          6(5)
```

For the moment at least the right hand opponent has the lead and they can not attack this suit to their advantage.

Look at the two hands and particularly the Heart suit. The contract is 3NT.

```
                          ( dummy)
                            KQJ3
                            AQ3
                             987
                             K3
   4 Hearts led ---------->  |
                            1097
                             65
                            AKQ
                            A8762
```

After your *avoidance play* in Hearts at trick 1 you will have time to play a Spade and knock out the Ace and take 9 tricks.
If you had finessed the Q Hearts and it had lost to the King then the opponents would lead back Hearts and you might lose 4 Heart tricks and 1 spade.

There are other possibilities to postpone finesses which we will look at over the page.