

Avoiding (or *delaying*) finesses when possible.

Finesses can often be put off and need only be taken when things are desperate.

Here in 3NT on the lead of the 3 clubs the declarer should { for the time being }NOT take the finesse of the J clubs . The point is not that the finesse is known to be wrong, but rather that the declarer can choose to take it later when it suits them better. Playing the Ace clubs and then a spade guarantees 9 tricks with no risks.

(declarer)	(dummy)
KQJ	1092
AQ3	876
J765	AKQ4
654	AKJ

This time the finesses taken in the contract of 3NT will depend on the lead.

(declarer)	(dummy)	On a club lead you have no choice ,you have to take a
AKQ	10962	finesse. It would do no good for instance playing the Ace
763	AKJ	clubs. On a heart lead however you could for the moment
KQJ5	9874	play the Ace (and only finesse the J later in the hand if it
65	AQ	suited you).Playing on diamonds is likely to lead to 9 tricks.

A finesse which really can never be avoided is in the trump suit itself. Here in 4Sp you will have to take the finesse for the Q sp like it or not.

(declarer)	(dummy)
AKJ2	10942
AK	87
J765	AKQ4
765	432

Trumping in dummy or establishing the long suit (in dummy).

Sometimes you can choose between these two approaches. Here in 4Sp a heart is led.

(declarer)	(dummy)
AKJ92	Q72
A543	7
105	KQJ987
K6	A32

Here you can trump a hrt in the dummy come back to hand and trump another hrt. It is much easier though to win the hrt lead and play a diamond { the 10 diamonds} .

It may be that sometimes there is little to choose between the two lines but in general if you have to trump multiple times in the dummy then playing to establish the long suit is likely to be the better line { and the one that will make the most tricks }.