

The Chinese finesse and other follies...

We all now know not to finesse with this holding

Q65 -----A32

ie we know not to lead the Q towards the Ace . If we *did* of course ,we would have no chance of making our Queen as an opponent would head the Queen with their King.

e.g Q65 -----|-----A32
 K98
 1074

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Wherever the King lay , if we lead the Queen then the opponent with the King would play the King on our Queen.We would make only 1 trick if we led the Q to the Ace.

The correct way to play the combination is to lead a small card towards the Ace and to then lead a small card to our Queen. If you play in this approved fashion you will make two tricks half of the time. Thus in our second example above we would in time score a trick with our Queen by leading towards it.

Essentially , *with an unsupported honour in one hand and the unsupported Ace in the other hand , the correct play is to lead low to the Ace and then later lead low to the other honour.*

We are going to apply this principle to this holding below.

e.g Q765 -----|-----AJ32

You may not yet see here where the Chinese finesse lies but read on. There is a finesse available and the obvious play is to lead the 5 to the Jack. If it wins the remaining declarer/dummy cards are :-

Q76 -----|-----A32

...and we are back to the Chinese finesse. We continue playing the suit by leading the Ace and then the 2 towards the Q.

It is not so unlikely that we will make all 4 tricks if we play this way. Suppose the full layout of the suit was :

e.g Q765 -----|-----AJ32
 K4
 1098

Now playing in this the approved manner produces all 4 tricks.