

Card Reading at Contract -swish title huh ?

Good players always seem to know when to finesse , who holds the Kings and Jacks and so on.

Perhaps they are lucky {{ anyone remember golfer Lee Trevino being asked if he was always so lucky with his bunker shots . "Yep " he replied , " the more I practise the luckier I get ".}}

So -in an attempt to increase our luck we are going to practise some card reading.

In 4Sp you have drawn trumps and have to play a side suit with this holding :

Q108
|
A43

It looks something like a Chinese finesse and you might lead the 3

ie

7 Q108
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 A43

suppose on the 3 the opponent on your left plays the 7.

The question is "where's the King ?"

Well unless you are playing some budding world champion it is almost certain that the player who played the 7 does not hold the King. Why ? Well wouldn't just about every player you know rise with the King to make sure that they took the trick ?

The fact that they haven't played the King rather suggests that they *aint got it !*

The correct play is to try the 10 rather than the Q.

Here is the full hand :

	AK87	
	Q108	
54	432	92
J97	AK5	K652
KQJ10		A987
J832	QJ1093	764
	A43	
	65	
	Q109	

{You make 10 tricks losing only 2 x diamonds and 1 x heart }.

The point is that when you led the low heart the player on the left *if they held the King* would be concerned that if they didn't play it when they had the chance to make it, that they might never make their King. (They would look rather silly if they could have made a trick with their King but didn't too.) When the King is not played the supposition is that that player hasn't got the King and therefore their partner has.