

33- 2024 – Reversing the Finesse

Dealer South, NS Vul

How do you play this Hand in 6H by South?

	NORTH	
	AJ1097	
	K72	
	1064	
	QJ	
WEST		EAST
K864		532
84		53
KQ9		J8532
9863		K105
	SOUTH	
	Q	
	AQJ1096	
	A7	
	A742	

The Bidding was:

	South	West	North	East
	1H	P	1S	P
	3H (1)	P	4H	P
	4NT (2)	P	5H (3)	P
	6H	P	P	P
(1)	Good 6 card Heart suit 15+ Points			
(2)	RKCB			
(3)	2 Key Cards (includes HK) – must be SA and HK, as South has 3 other aces			

West leads DK

How do you play this Hand, after you win DK in Hand with DA?

You are missing 3 Kings, and if you take any finesse and it loses, the DQ will surely be played, down 1

It looks like you need 2 finesses to work (about a 25% chance)

But is there another way?

Cash HA and then HQ, noting Trumps break 2:2

Play SQ (unlikely to be covered) and overtake it with SA!

Then play SJ and throw the losing D7 from hand

West is now in, and is very likely to try DQ. You ruff, enter Table with HK, and run the Spades, hoping they break 4:3 or S8 falls, setting up S7 (all up about a 55% chance)

If S8 does not fall, you fall back on the Club finesse (50%)

NOTE: if Trumps do not break 2:2, then 3:1 is OK so long as you leave the last Trump undrawn for after playing SQ, overtaking and SJ as above. If Trumps break 4:0, then it is harder to make, as there is more of a risk of a ruff as you try to run Spades – you need the Defender with long Trumps to have long Spades

MORAL OF THE STORY

The play of overtaking SQ with SA and throwing the losing D7 on the losing SJ improves your chances massively, to over 75%

30 August 2024

Bye bye Winter