

	<i>North</i>			
Dealer: N	♠ J8			
Vul:	♥ 765			
None	♦ K64			
	♣ 76532			
<i>West</i>		<i>East</i>		
♠ T97		♠ KQ5		
♥ AT942		♥ KQJ3		
♦ Q9		♦ A732		
♣ AQ9		♣ JT		
	<i>South</i>			
	♠ A6432			
	♥ 8			
	♦ JT85			
	♣ K8			
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Bidding:	N	E	S	W
	P	1H	P	4H
	ALL PASS			

Board 17, Monday morning, 3rd August.

It is no surprise really that inexperienced players don't know how to finesse. And don't know how to defend against so called finesses.

You see the A Q 9 in dummy, and declarer plays the Jack. You hold K 10 2. Do you cover? Of course you do. This sets up your 10 which might not be able to be finessed.

You hold K 8 4, do you cover? Of course you do. You don't know who has the 10, but it might be partner, it can't cost to cover.

Dummy plays the Queen from dummy and you hold K 6 4. Do you cover? Of course you do. You have no idea who holds any of the high cards, but playing the King is rarely wrong.

Now for the bidding. We have been taught that with 2 four card suits we should bid the lower one first. Is this correct? There must be exceptions, and I think this is one. Not playing 5 card majors, I think this is a 1 Heart opening bid. You have a suitable rebid no matter what partner bids, ie 1 NT. The only problem is when partner only has Diamonds, and even then a bid of 1 NT from them is not likely to be a disaster.

On the other hand, if we open 1 Diamond and partner bids 1 Spade, you do have an easy rebid of 1 NT, but beginners quite often bid 2 Hearts, a reverse bid, showing 5 Diamonds. This is wrong, if partner has bid 1 Spade, they either don't have 4 hearts, or they hold 5 spades and 4 hearts, and will bid hearts next.

And so it turned out that we ended up in 4Hearts played by East. It is hard to show how many mistakes were made by the defence.

1. They lead away from an Ace against a suit contract.
2. They don't cover the Jack of Clubs.
3. Seeing error number 2, it is not difficult to lead the Queen of Diamonds, and expect that not to be covered, either.
Making 6 Hearts , plus 480.