

Board 1 from Friday 20th September, 2013 is an example of how easily things can go wrong. Partner and I were E/W and I was playing East. The dealer was North.



The analysis of par contract shows that it is possible for E/W to make 6 Hearts or 6 NT and after the bidding, I played the contract in 6 Hearts.

The lead was 6C. I won this in my hand with the Ace.

Now my problem was how to discard a losing Club.

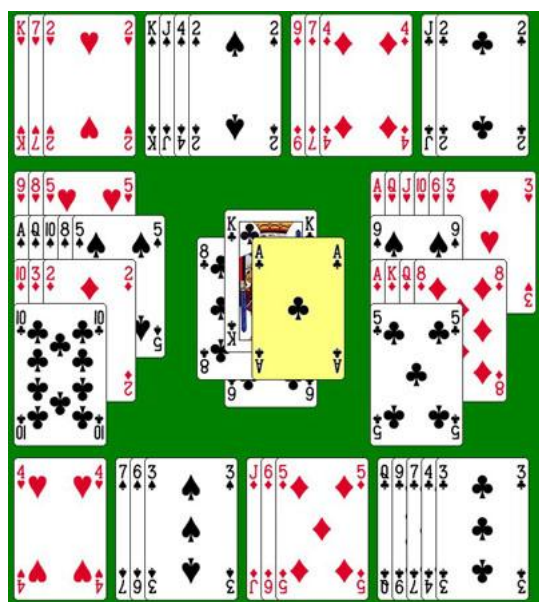
My first instinct was to finesse the Q of Spades and then discard the 5 Clubs on the A of Spades.

The other option was to play the 9 of Spades to the A of Spades and finesse the 9 of Hearts, hoping that the K of Hearts is in the North hand.

Unfortunately, I took the wrong line and hoping for a drop of the K of Hearts, laid the A of Hearts. Not a success, the K of Hearts didn't fall.

And now the Spade finesse, also lost.

To add insult to injury, the club loser that I was hoping to get rid of, was of course lost so I went down 2 tricks in a contract of 6 Hearts that it was possible to make.



Going back to the original hand, I can make 6 Hearts if :

after winning the first trick with my A of Clubs, I lead to the A of Spades

then play the 9 of Hearts and duck if North plays low

continue with the 8 of Hearts and duck again if North plays low.

Eventually losing 1 only Club trick after all the winners have been cashed.

*Bal Krishnan*