

# SECOND HAND PLAY

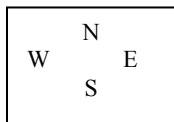
## FINESSES – DECLARING AND DEFENDING

### LEAD TOWARD POSSIBLE WINNERS

**EXERCISE 1:** As declarer, how would you play each suit pictured to maximize your tricks in the suit? If your finesse works, could you lose the lead?

#### EXAMPLE A

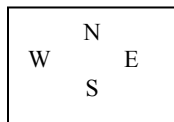
Dummy  
♠ A 7 2



♠ K J 4  
Declarer

#### EXAMPLE B

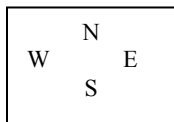
Dummy  
♠ A Q



♠ 7 6  
Declarer

#### EXAMPLE C

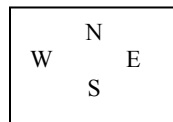
Dummy  
♠ Q 4 3



♠ 8 5 2  
Declarer

#### EXAMPLE D

Dummy  
♠ K 7



♠ 8 5  
Declarer

## DEFENDING AGAINST A FINESSE

### Second Hand Low

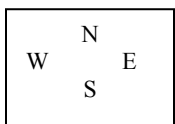
Play second hand low to use your honors to capture the opponents' honors. Remember aces were made to take kings and queens, not twos and threes.

**EXERCISE 2:** How should West play when the underlined card is led by South?

#### EXAMPLE E

♠ K 7 2

You hold  
♥ A 10 3



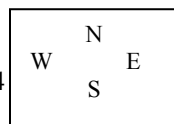
Partner  
♥ J 8 6 4

♥ Q 9 5

#### EXAMPLE F

♥ K J

You hold  
♥ A 10 7 4



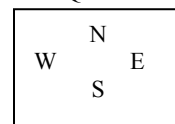
Partner  
♥ Q 6 3 2

♥ 9 8 5

#### EXAMPLE G

♥ A Q J

You hold  
♥ K 4 3



Partner  
♥ 9 8 7 2

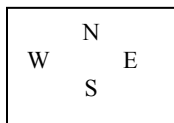
♥ 10 6 5

## FANCY FINESSES

**EXERCISE 3:** As declarer, how would you play each suit pictured to maximize your tricks in the suit?

#### EXAMPLE H

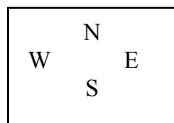
Dummy  
♠ A J 10



♠ 5 4 3  
Declarer

#### EXAMPLE I

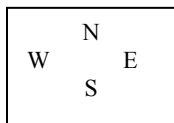
Dummy  
♠ Q 10 9



♠ 5 4 3  
Declarer

#### EXAMPLE J

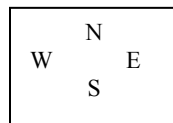
Dummy  
♠ K 10 9



♠ 5 4 3  
Declarer

#### EXAMPLE K

Dummy  
♠ K Q 10



♠ 5 4 2  
Declarer



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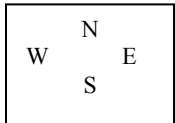
## LEADING THE HIGH CARD TO FINESSE

Declarer can afford to finesse by leading an honor when he holds a sequence of touching honors. Before leading high to finesse, declarer should consider how he would feel if second hand covered the honor with a higher honor.

**EXERCISE 4: As declarer, how would you play each suit pictured to maximize your tricks in the suit?**

### EXAMPLE L

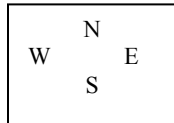
Dummy  
♠ Q J 10



♠ A 3 2  
Declarer

### EXAMPLE M

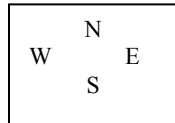
Dummy  
♠ J 10 9



♠ K 3 2  
Declarer

### EXAMPLE N

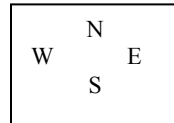
Dummy  
♠ Q 4 3



♠ A 5 2  
Declarer

### EXAMPLE O

Dummy  
♠ Q J 4 3



♠ A 5 2  
Declarer

## DEFENDING AGAINST FINESSES

### Splitting Honors

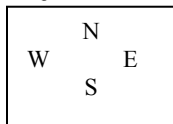
### Cover An Honor With An Honor

**EXERCISE 5: How should You play when the underlined card is led?**

### EXAMPLE P

♥ Q J 5

Partner  
♥ 10 4 3



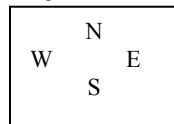
♥ A 9 8 2

You  
♥ K 7 6

### EXAMPLE Q

♥ Q 7 6

Partner  
♥ 10 9 8



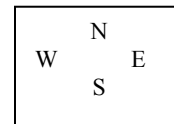
♥ A J 3

You  
♥ K 5 4 2

### EXAMPLE R

♥ A J 10

Partner  
♥ K Q 3



♥ 6 5 4

You  
♥ 9 8 7 2

## SECOND HAND LOW

- “Second hand low” when a low card is lead from dummy or declarer’s hand.
- “Second hand low” is a guideline for the *defenders*. Declarer can play low or high, depending on the hand but even for declarer, it is often wise to play low.
- “Second hand low” because “aces were made to take kings and queens.”
- “Second hand low” because partner still has a chance to win the trick.
- “Second hand low” usually means playing your *lowest* card.
- “Second hand low” quickly so you don’t give away information about your cards to declarer. (Bluffing through your behavior is never allowed in bridge. If you want to bluff, play poker.)
- “Second hand *high*” when it’s necessary to cover an honor (cover the last of dummy’s honors; see Example P above).
- “Second hand *high*” when you must split your honors (see Example R above).
- “Second hand *high*” when you can win the setting trick.