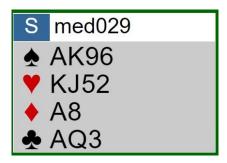
23/11/2020 Hand of the Week 40: A choice of finesses

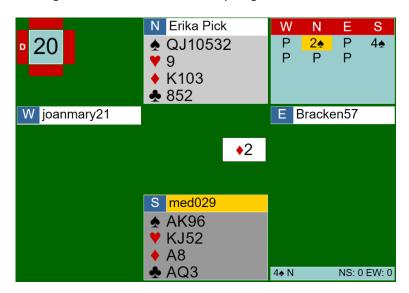
Partner opens 2♠. What to bid?



We can count 6 spades off the top and 2 Aces. Is there enough for game in spades?

The weak 2 should have 6-10 points, and we know only 3 of these are in spades so there is an outside honour somewhere.

One option is to ask partner for more information using 2NT. If you look back to week 18 that runs through the responses, and on this occasion partner would show a weak suit and weak points. Given that a Queen might be sufficient if the other honours are placed correctly, and if partner comes up with King the contract is guaranteed I would take the plunge and bid 4 .



The lead is the 2 ♦. We can count 10 tricks- 6 spades, A♣, 2 diamonds and a diamond ruff.

Overtricks make all the difference in pairs, and there are options for finesses in hearts and clubswhat is the best play?

The point to think about here is what happens after you have taken the finesse.

Finessing Clubs might give you 2 club tricks, but you are still losing a club and a heart.

What about the heart finesse? If you lead low to the K♥ and it loses to the A♥ with West there is no harm done, you can come back to hand and finesse the clubs later- but if East plays the A♥, you can now discard a club loser on the K♥.

The full hand:



4 declarers made their 2 overtricks for 83%, the others made 11 tricks and 33%

A little forward planning can help you find the right play!