



When the opponent has a long suit

When the opponent has a long leading suit

You are playing a NT contract. During the bidding sequence, you have understood that one of your opponents has a long suit. You must avoid giving this opponent the lead. He is the dangerous one !

In order to do so, you have to know 2 important manœuvres :

- Try a finesse the right way...which means taking a risk on the other opponent ... when it is possible !
- Capture a stiff or 2nd honor in your main suit...when there is no possible finesse to try

Example.

West leads K ♦. You duck. West plays ♦ again, the Q this time. You take it, but you know that West is now holding 5 leading ♦ cards...To make 9 tricks, you need 3 ♣ tricks. How to operate and not put West back in hand ?

S	W	N	E
	3 ♦	X	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

K	Q	J	
A	K	6	5
A	6	5	2

	7	
Q	♦	5
	A	♠

A	8	2	
7	4	3	
K	J	4	3
10	♦		

Exercise 27315 There is no possible finesse, if you want to avoid giving West the lead. Therefore, no other option than to play Ace and K ♣. If Q ♣ is 3rd in East's hand, no big deal your 4th ♣ card will be good. Playing this way, you maximise your chances of winning.



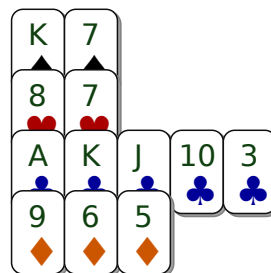
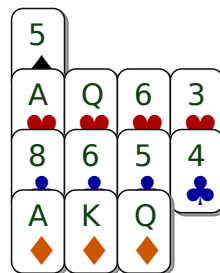
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Sometimes the dangerous opponent is not the one holding the long suit... but his partner who might put your honor at risk

You are S, playing 3NT. The lead is 6 ♠, and you take with your J. To win the contract, you must make 4 ♣ tricks. How should you operate ?

S	W	N	E
1 ♣	1 ♠	X	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
3 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass



Exercise 27316 Who is dangerous ?

East !

Indeed, if East is in hand, he will play ♠, and your K will be captured. Play Ace ♣ to test the waters, then a low card towards the J. If the Q lies in West's hand, your K ♠ will still be protected...and your ♣ good !