

Deep Finesse – right again!

Here is a curiosity from the 2005 Lederer.

Love all. Dealer North.

♠ 52		
♥ AKQ		
♦ A1072		
♣ KJ95		
♠ 976		♠ K1084
♥ 765		♥ J1092
♦ KJ94		♦ 85
♣ 1064		♣ A83
	♠ AQJ3	
	♥ 843	
	♦ Q63	
	♣ Q72	

On the print-out of the hands given to the VuGraph commentators Deep Finesse indicated that North-South could make game (exactly) in all four suits!

[The most taxing contract is 5♦, but declarer can make eight tricks in the side suits and then lead his last spade. Whichever trump West chooses to ruff with, he will score only one trump trick to go with partner's ♣A. If he ruffs with the nine, for example, declarer overruffs with the ten and end-plays West with a trump to the six. If instead West ruffs with the jack, declarer underruffs in the dummy to leave West end-played.]

At the table seven of the North-Souths were unadventurous, ignoring the Moysian fits in Clubs and Diamonds and playing in mundane 3NT contracts, making ten or eleven tricks, depending on how they tackled the diamond suit.

The exception was the pair that confirmed Deep Finesse's calculations and did indeed make ten tricks in hearts with a 3-3 fit ... defending 1♥ Doubled!

West	North	East	South
	<i>Auken</i>		<i>von Arnim</i>
	1♣*	Double*	Redouble
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
Pass	Double	All Pass	

Sabine Auken opened a strong club as North and East doubled to show the majors. Daniela von Arnim redoubled and Auken then doubled East's One Heart bid. The German ladies' defence was merciless, beginning with a couple of text-book plays. Von Arnim led a trump, often a good lead if declarer has shown a two-suiter. Auken won and returned the ♣J, surrounding dummy's ♣10, a play that would gain if her partner had ♣A and declarer had ♣Q. Declarer was held to three tricks and the All Stars won 8 IMPs on the board.