Combining chances

Masterclass, 2025

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Some important statistics in bridge

- Missing odd numbers – often divided equally
- Missing even numbers – often divided unequal (not 1-1)
- 3-2 break just over 2/3 of the times
- 3-3 break just over 1/3 of the times
- Finesse ½
- Double finesse ¼ or ¾

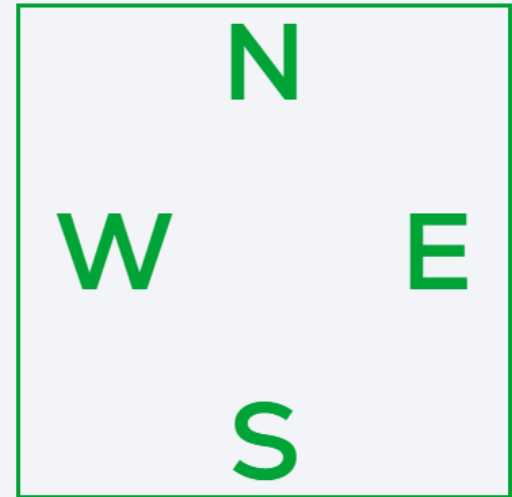# Which suit should we choose?

- 3-3 or finesse?
- 3-2 or finesse?
- Which finesse?
- Do we have to choose?

♠ 6
♥ 6 5
♦ K Q 3 2
♣ A K Q 10 7 2

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        N
    W       E
        S
```

♠ K 5
♥ A Q 10 7
♦ A J 9 5
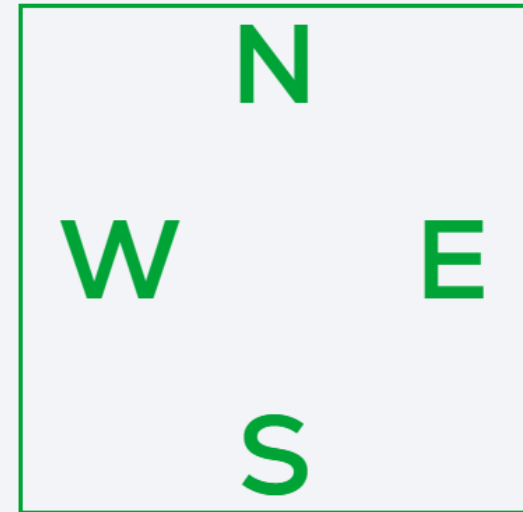♣ J 9 3

Which suit should we choose?

- 3-3 or finesse?

- 3-2 or finesse?

- Which finesse?

- Do we have to choose?

♠ 8 7 6 4
♥ 9 6 5
♦ K Q 2
♣ A 10 2

N
W　E
S

♠ A 5
♥ A Q 10 2
♦ A 9 7 5
♣ K Q J

Can we avoid a finesse?

- Is there anything we can try before?
- If we can only take one finesse – try cashing out first
- With 8 cards the queen will drop over 1/3 of the times
- Try for drop in the longest suits

♠ A K J 2

♥ A K 8 5

■

♠ 10 9 8 5

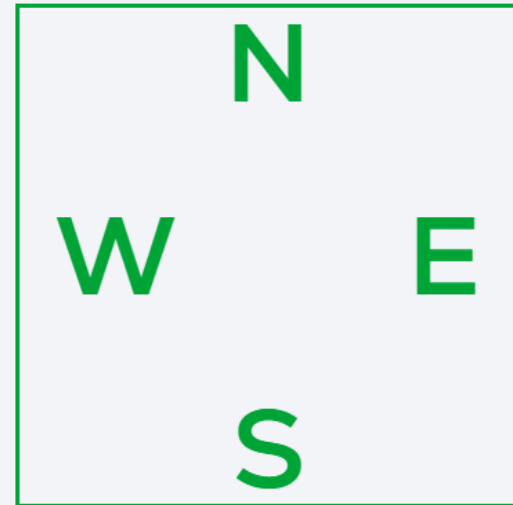♥ J 10 9

Can we avoid a finesse?

- Is there anything we can try before?
- If we can only take one finesse – try cashing out first
- With 8 cards the queen will drop over 1/3 of the times
- Try for drop in the longest suits
- Can we ruff in a suit?

♠ Q J 9 8 5
♥ A K J 10
♦ A J 3
♣ A

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 10 7 6 4 2
♥ 7 2
♦ K 7 5
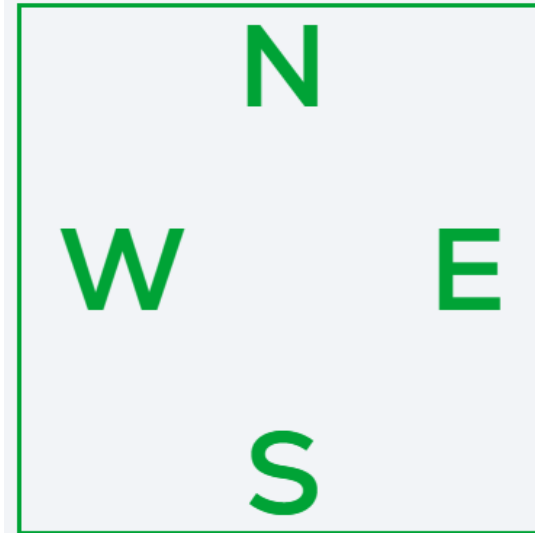♣ 9 7 3

Remember our communication

- It is important that we keep our communication
- Sometimes we cannot combine everything
- Opponents sometimes force you to make an early choice

♠ A 8 6 2
♥ 9 6 5
♦ 8 5 3 2
♣ A 2

```
        N
     W     E
        S
```

♠ 9 5
♥ A Q 7
♦ A K Q
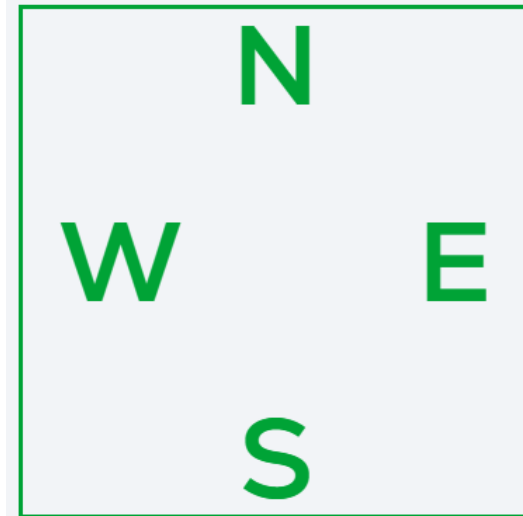♣ K Q 9 5 3

Remember our communication

- It is important that we keep our communication
- Sometimes we cannot combine everything
- Opponents sometimes force you to make an early choice

♠ Q 6 2
♥ 9 6 5
♦ 8 5 3 2
♣ A 3 2

N
W   E
S

♠ 9 5
♥ A Q 7
♦ A K Q J
♣ K Q 9 5

Summing up

- 3-2 > finesse > 3-3
- We want to delay our choices as long as possible
- Can we try something else before our finesse
- If several options – which first?
- Sometimes opponents or communication force us to choose one
- Safety play