

A Really Really Good Elimination Play

♠ J 4	♠ A
♥ A K 7	♥ Q 4
♦ 9 7 6 4	♦ A Q 8 3
♣ K J 8 2	♣ A Q 10 7 6 4

Contract is 6C by E. No bidding by NS. South led the ♠K. The ♦ suit was the problem, of course, since if the finesse failed there was likely to be at least two losers in the suit. But a little thought should guide you to the correct line of play. After drawing trumps you can discard one of the losing ♦s from your hand on the long ♥. You can then make the loser-on-loser play of throwing a second ♦ on the losing ♠J. This will endplay South, who will be forced to lead into your ♦A Q of diamonds or concede a ruff and discard. After a while plays of this sort become fairly routine. The only other reasonable option on this hand is to play for the ♦K doubleton or ♦J 10 doubleton. The full deal shows that playing for a doubleton ♦K would have worked, but the difference between the two options is that playing for the ♦K doubleton is not guaranteed whereas the elimination play was marked by the opening lead.

	N	♠ 10 9 8 5 3		
		♥ 10 9 5 3 2		
		♦ J 10 5		
		♣ -----		
W		♠ J 4	♠ A	E
		♥ A K 7 W E	♥ Q 4	
		♦ 9 7 6 4 S	♦ A Q 8 3	
		♣ K J 8 2	♣ A Q 10 7 6 4	
	S	♠ K Q 7 6 2		
		♥ J 8 6		
		♦ K 2		
		♣ 9 5 3		