You Don't Have to Be a Math Major
Part 3

You just finished dinner in a fine restaurant, and the waiter brought you the check. Can you figure out how to tip 15%, 20%? Many people cannot, and that is why they do not like to talk about percentages at the bridge table, and that is why many players would get the following hand - from the Richmond paper - wrong.

How would you play the hand?

Hint: **If you hold 7 cards in a suit - leaving six for the opponents, the chance that a suit will split 3/3 is about 33%, but the chance that it will split 4/2 is well over 60%.**

Any given finesse will work about 50% of the time.

If one player bids, the possibility of the finesse goes up if he is in front of the finesse suit; and down if he is behind it. If an opponent overcalls, the likelihood is that he has a five card or longer suit.

The opponents have not bid. You are in 4 hearts.

> 9 7 6 5 2
> Q J 10
> 7 4 2
> A 4
>
> A Q
> A K 9 8 7 6
> A 8 3
> 10 2

WEST LEADS THE QUEEN OF DIAMONDS. PLAN THE PLAY!!!!

You have nine winners, 6 hearts and three aces. The lazy way to play the hand is to win the ace of diamonds, go to dummy and take the spade finesse. 50/50.

But you have 4 entries to dummy in hearts and clubs, why not try to set up a long spade in dummy, over 60%.

Win the diamond and play the ace and queen of spades. When both follow, you are home. They cash diamonds and play a club. Win the ace and trump a spade. Since you have all the spots, be a cutie, and trump with the ace. Go back to dummy with a heart and trump a spade with the king. The last spade in dummy is good, so play a heart over and discard your club loser.

Maybe you were a math major, after all.

If you held the Ace deuce of spades instead of the Ace Queen, this hand would have been easier. With the exception of the Biblical Delilah, and maybe Mata Hari, there have been few temptresses in history that have misled more people than the Queen Of Spades.