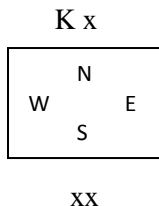


## MANAGING SUIT COMBINATIONS:

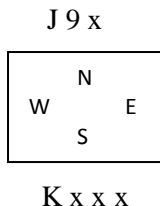
### Suit handling and finesses.

*As declarer, how do you handle these combinations:*

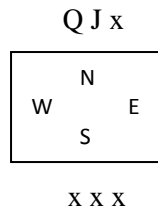
(a)



(b)



(c)



### Solution:

a) Lead x from South.

This illustrates the general principle of leading towards *High Cards*. Another example would be to lead twice towards K Q x. If the Ace is on your left, you make both the King and the Queen. (There are of course exceptions.)

b) Lead x from South.

Not my fault! I said there were exceptions. If West plays low, finesse the 9, hoping West has the Q 10. If he does, you set up two tricks. Also West will often make the mistake of going up with the Queen on your first lead.

c) Lead x twice from South.

Much like the KQx combination in (a). If honours are split you must make one trick. If East has both the Ace and King, don't but any lottery tickets that day.

When you lead a small card towards an Ace-Queen combination you are finessing the Queen and finessing *against* the King. When the finesse loses, it may be of some consolation to know that you are at least familiar with the correct terminology.

### Pearls of wisdom from the great Alfred Sheinwold:

1. The real test of a bridge player isn't in keeping out of trouble, but in escaping once he's in it.
2. One advantage of bad bidding is that you get practice at playing atrocious contracts.
3. Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make them all yourself.