$_{13}$♠ J 7 3 ♥ A J 5 ♦ A K 7 3 ♣ 8 7 4

```
        N
    W       E
        S
```

$_{12}$♠ A K T 9 6 4 ♥ K 8 2 ♦ J T ♣ J 5

W	N	E	S
–	–	PASS	1♠
2♣	2NT	PASS	3♠
PASS	4♠	all pass	

W leads A, K and Q♣. E follows with T♣ (discourage), 6♣ and 7♥. You ruff the third club and play A♠, both opponents follow. What do you do next? Can you secure the contract?

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Normally we would play K♠ (and not finesse). However if W started with 6 clubs it is now more probable that trumps are 1-3. From the bidding we know that E has at most 3-4 points, so it is possible he has Q♠. Should we, therefore, finesse? You will fail if both finessing queen fails and the second finesse that we decide to take (♦ or ♥) also fails (and if E does not have Q♠, he may have Q♦ or Q♥). Can you do better? Yes, we can play K♠ and if Q♠ doesn't drop, play the third spade. E will take with queen and will be endplayed. Playing either of the red suits (and that is all E can do now) finesses W's honor. So this play will succeed with trumps 2-2 as well as with trumps 1-3. You can do nothing with trumps 3-1.

Conclusion. Establishing the most probable card distribution is not a goal in itself, it is just a step to finding the best line of play.

$_{13}$♠ J 7 3 ♥ A J 5 ♦ A K 7 3 ♣ 8 7 4

```
                    N
$_{13}$♠Q8 ♥QT6 ♦9 ♣AKQ932   W       E   $_{2}$♠52 ♥742 ♦Q86542 ♣T6
                    S
```

$_{12}$♠ A K T 9 6 4 ♥ K 8 2 ♦ J T ♣ J 5