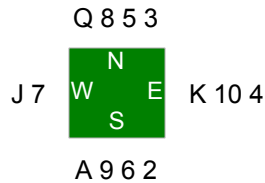


# The Intra-Finesse

By Gabriel Chagas

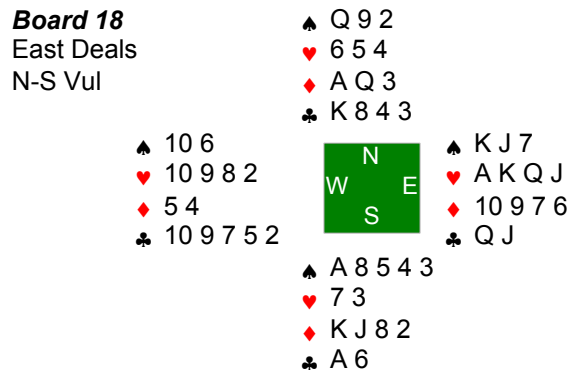
*Gabriel Chagas is the diminutive super-star of Brazilian bridge. He is a financier and investment consultant in Rio. He is one of just eight players in the world to have won the triple crown of World Olympiad Teams (1976), World Pairs (1990) and Bermuda Bowl (1989). He is the top-ranked South American player, having won the South American teams twenty times in twenty-four attempts in the period 1967–93. He has also won the Sunday Times twice, in 1979 and 1992, and the Cap Gemini Pairs in 1993.*

The finesse is usually regarded as one of the humbler forms of play, but it sometimes requires quite a lot of imagination. This is especially true of the intra-finesse, a play of which I am very fond. This diagram shows one common type of intra-finesse.



The bidding has given you a good idea of the lay-out of this suit. To hold yourself to one loser you play small towards dummy and finesse the eight! East will score the ten but later you'll enter dummy and lead the queen, smothering West's jack. Well, this is an intra-finesse.

The finesse is commonly regarded as one of the humbler forms of play, but it sometimes requires quite a lot of imagination. This is especially true of the Intra-finesse – a play of which I am very fond. This diagram shows one common type of Intra-finesse:



East opens a strong no-trump but South reaches anyway. West leads the ten of hearts and South ruffs the third round. Knowing that East has the king of spades, South leads low to the nine, which loses to the jack.

South wins the club return with the ace and, in order to test the distribution, plays a club to the king and ruffs a club. With East showing out South decides to play him for three trumps, so he crosses to dummy with a diamond and leads the queen of spades.