

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ A Q J
♥ K Q J 7 5
♦ A J 10
♣ 8 6

♠ 5 4 2
♥ 4 2
♦ 9 4 3 2
♣ 7 4 3 2



♠ 10 9 8 3
♥ 6 3
♦ K Q 8
♣ Q J 10 9

♠ K 7 6
♥ A 10 9 8
♦ 7 6 5
♣ A K 5

N 6N; N 6♥; S 5N; N 5♠; S 5♥; S 4♠; NS 3♦; N 3♣; S 2♣; Par +990
Lead: ♣Q

Stripping a Hand

If you can draw trump and still have at least one trump in each hand, you might be able to strip the hand and force the opponents to lead a suit that you would prefer not to have to lead yourself, or to give you (declarer) a sluff-and-ruff.

Sometimes the hands have the same hand shape. Other times you can create hands with similar shapes before throwing in one of the defenders to get them to lead the suit you want led or give you the sluff/ruff.

To force the defenders to lead the suit you want them to lead, or to give you a sluff/ruff when you are playing in a trump contract, you have to play out (eliminate) all of the other cards in 2 of the suits in both the declarer's hand and the dummy's hand before giving up the lead to one of the defenders.

There are many suit combinations in which your chances improve if you can force the opponents to lead them for you.

Examples of some of the hand combinations you would rather have the opponents lead appear below.

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