

Jim's Lessons Week 5 Hand #1 Strip Play / End Play

**Board 3**

South Deals  
E-W Vul

♠ Q 10 9 3  
♥ A 10  
♦ 6 4 3 2  
♣ 6 4 2

♠ 7 4  
♥ Q J 8  
♦ A K Q 10 8  
♣ K 9 7



♠ 6 2  
♥ 9 5 4 3 2  
♦ 7 5  
♣ J 10 8 5

♠ A K J 8 5  
♥ K 7 6  
♦ J 9  
♣ A Q 3

**Contract:** 4 ♠ by South

**Lead:** A ♦

This hand is an example of a different type of Strip Play/End Play

West takes the ace and king of diamonds and realizes that he can safely play a third diamond so he does.

S 4 ♠; N 3 ♠; NS 2N; EW 2 ♥; NS 1 ♦;  
NS 1 ♣; Par +420

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 ♠
3 ♦	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			
4 ♠ by South			

It would appear that declarer may have to lose 2 diamond tricks and 2 club tricks if the king of clubs was behind the queen (likely from the bidding).

Declarer however, had a plan.

He played 2 rounds of trump and then he played the ace/king of hearts and ruffed a heart in the North hand (stripping both the North and South hand of hearts). After doing that the declarer then played North's 4th diamond but instead of ruffing in the South hand he discarded the 3 of clubs (one of his club losers). This forces West to win the diamond trick but then West must give either a ruff and sluff or lead away from his king of clubs into the ace/queen of clubs in the South hand.

If West had not led the third diamond then declarer would have also had to ruff one of North's diamonds to finish "stripping the hand" before "end playing" West by playing the 4th diamond and throwing a club loser.

A great hand to learn from.