

Jim's Lessons Week 5 #3 Stripping the Hand (with clues from the bidding)

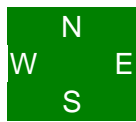
Contract: 3♥ by East

Board 19

South Deals
E-W Vul

♠ K J 10 5 2
♥ 9 7
♦ A K 10
♣ 9 3 2

♠ 9 8 7 6
♥ K Q 5 3
♦ J 8 7 3
♣ K



♠ A
♥ 10 2
♦ 9 6 5 4
♣ J 10 8 6 5 4

♠ Q 4 3
♥ A J 8 6 4
♦ Q 2
♣ A Q 7

Lead: A♦/K♦/ & 2♣

Source: Puritan Bridge Club game of Thursday March 21, 2013

Contract	Lead	Result	Scores		Matchpoints	
			N-S	E-W	N-S	E-W
4♥ E	♠ A	8	200		7.00	0.00
4♥ W	♦ A	9	100		6.00	1.00
3♠ N	♥ A	8		50	4.50	2.50
3♣ S	♥ K	8		50	4.50	2.50
5♣ x S	♥ K	8		500	3.00	4.00
4♥ W	♦ A	10		620	1.00	6.00
4♥ W	♦ A	10		620	1.00	6.00
4♥ W	♦ A	10		620	1.00	6.00

Makeable Contracts: EW 3NT;
EW 2♥; EW 1♠; NS 1♣;

Bidding:

N	E	S	W
		P	P
1S	Dbl	P	3H
P	4H	All Pass	

To make some contracts declarer often has to “strip” the hand. In a strip play the declarer creates a situation where the defender upon winning a trick has to make a favorable play for the declarer. This makes it so that the defense must either lead back into a tenace or give the declarer a sluff/ruff. Often this involves making the declarer and dummy have similar distributions. It often requires that both declarer's hand and the dummy still have trump.

North cashed both the ace and king of diamonds and then led a club. Had North led a low spade from the king while he still had a high diamond winner the defense might have scored 2 spades, 2 diamonds & a spade ruff and the N/S pair could have held the declarer to just 8 tricks. If after cashing the ace and king of diamonds North had led a spade then N/S would have held declarer to 9 tricks.

Declarer won the king of clubs and at first it looked as if he might have to lose 2 spades as well as the 2 diamonds.

After thinking of the bidding and the defense on the first 3 tricks, declarer realized he might actually make this hand. Since North had not led spades the ace/king were most likely in different hands and since North had opened a spade, South's spade holding should be a singleton.

All declarer had to do was to strip the hand of clubs and diamonds (take the other 2 high clubs and play the jack of diamonds, discarding one of his spades and ruff a diamond) so that if South wins a spade trick with either the ace or king of spades, then he would have to give declarer a sluff-and-ruff in clubs with declarer pitching another spade loser.

Note: East also bid 4H but could not make it as he got the ace of spades lead.