

Deal 1

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| North Deals | ♠ A J 10 8 3 |
| None Vul | ♥ A 3 |
| | ♦ A J 7 |
| | ♣ A Q 5 |

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| ♠ Q 2 | ♠ 5 |
| ♥ K 9 5 2 | ♥ Q J 10 8 7 |
| ♦ Q 8 5 4 | ♦ 9 6 2 |
| ♣ 10 6 4 | ♣ J 9 7 3 |



| | |
|-----|-------------|
| 20 | ♠ K 9 7 6 4 |
| 7 4 | ♥ 6 4 |
| 9 | ♦ K 10 3 |
| | ♣ K 8 2 |

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| | 1 ♠ | Pass | 3 ♠ |
| Pass | 6 ♠ | Pass | Pass |

6 ♠ by North

Lead: ♥ Q

end-played.

The defender who won the last trick cannot lead a trump because he has none. If he leads a ♥ or a ♣ you will get a ruff-sluff, ruffing in one hand while discarding a ♦ loser from the other. If he leads a ♦ you will get the free finesse you were hoping for all along.

With an elimination play you make it no matter who holds the Queen.

South's 3 ♠ bid is a limit raise showing T-12 points and good trump support. North is to play 6 ♠. East leads the ♥ Q.

With one certain ♥ loser you cannot afford to lose a ♦ also. You could guess which way to finesse and be correct half of the time. But an elimination play will work ALL of the time.

Win the first trick and play ♠ A, ♠ K. Trumps split 2-1.

Next play three rounds of ♣s to eliminate that suit from both your and dummy's hand.

With all the eliminations completed you are ready for the throw-in. Lead a ♥ from either hand. One of the defenders will win, (you don't care which), and will be

Deal 2

East Deals

None Vul

♠ K 9 7 6 4
♥ 6 4
♦ J 7 3
♣ Q 8 2

6 7
9 18

West

4 ♠
4 ♠ by East
Lead: ♥ Q

♠ 5
♥ K 9 8 5 2
♦ A 10 8
♣ 10 9 6 3



♠ A J 10 8 3
♥ A 3
♦ Q 5 2
♣ A K 5

♠ Q 2
♥ Q J 10 7
♦ K 9 6 4
♣ J 7 4

North

Pass
1 ♠

South
Pass
Pass

East is to play 4 ♠. South leads the ♥ Q.

This should remind you a lot of Deal 1. This time you have 1 ♥ loser and 3 ♦ losers. If you can force the opponents to lead ♦s you can make a trick with the ♦ Q or ♦ J, avoiding one of those losers.

Win the first trick and play ♠ A, ♠ K. Trumps split 2-1.

Next play three rounds of ♣s to eliminate that suit from you and dummy.

The eliminations are complete and it is time for the throw-in. Play the small ♥ from whichever hand you are in. This will be taken by one of the defenders.

No matter which defender wins the ♥ he is end-played. A ♥ or a ♣ will give you a ruff-sluff, but if he leads a ♦ you cannot be prevented from establishing either your ♦ Q or ♦ J as a winner.

Only by forcing them to start the ♦s can you take a trick in the suit.

Deal 3
 South Deals
 None Vul

| | |
|---|---|
| ♠ Q 2 ♥ Q J 10 7 ♦ Q 8 6 4 ♣ J 7 4 | ♠ K 9 7 6 4 ♥ 6 4 ♦ K 10 3 ♣ K 8 2 |
|---|---|

| | |
|---|---|
|  | ♠ 5 ♥ K 9 8 5 2 ♦ J 5 2 ♣ 10 9 6 3 |
|---|---|

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|
| 9 8 4 19 | ♠ A J 10 8 3 ♥ A 3 ♦ A 9 7 ♣ A Q 5 | <i>West</i> <i>North</i> <i>East</i> <i>South</i> | 1 ♠ 6 ♠ |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|

Pass 3 ♠
 Pass Pass

6 ♠ by South
 Lead: ♥ Q

South is to play 6 ♠. West leads the ♥ Q.

This is another follow-up to Deal 1. But this time you are missing both the ♦ Q and ♦ J. In this case an Elimination play doesn't give you a guarantee, it just improves your odds.

Win the first trick and play ♠ A, ♠ K. Trumps split 2-1.

Play three rounds of ♣s to eliminate the suit from you and dummy.

Now execute the throw-in by leading a ♥ from either hand.

The defender who gets thrown in cannot play a ♥ or a ♣ without handing you the contract by way of a ruff-and-sluff. So he must lead a ♦. Suppose it is West who

leads the ♦. You play low in dummy and East must play either the ♦ Q or ♦ J to keep you from getting a cheap trick with your ♦ 9. So you take East's honor with your ♦ A and then finesse West for the other honor. As long as the ♦ Q and ♦ J are in different hands the elimination play will succeed.

By forcing them to start the ♦s you make three tricks when the two outstanding honors are divided.

Deal 4

West Deals

None Vul

♦ J 10 9 3 2

♣ Q 7 4

♠ 8 6 5

♥ A Q 9 7 3

♦ K 6

♣ A J 5

7
14 11
8♠ 9 7 3
♥ K J 8 2
♦ A 8 4
♣ K 10 3♠ A Q 10 2
♥ 6 4
♦ Q 7 5
♣ 9 8 6 2

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> | <i>South</i> |
| 1 ♥ | Pass | 3 ♥ | Pass |
| 4 ♥ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

4 ♥ by West

Lead: ♦ J

your luck with guessing who had the ♣ Q.

West is to play 4 ♥. North leads the ♦ J.

Win the ♦ K, then pull trumps, it takes two rounds.

Next you eliminate the ♦s by playing ♦ A then ruffing the ♦ 8.

Execute the throw-in by leading a ♠.

The defense is in with a ♠ and they are welcome to take two more ♠s. But then they will have to play a ♠ or a ♦, giving you a ruff-sluff, or else lead a ♣ which finds the ♣ Q for you.

Here you were lucky the defense didn't start by taking their three ♠s. If they had, you would not have been able to pull off the throw-in, and would have had to try

Deal 5South Deals
None Vul

♠ 10
♥ K J 8 3 2
♦ A 5 4 2
♣ 9 7 4

10
8 8
14



♠ A Q 8 7 5 2
♥ 10 4
♦ 9 3
♣ A 6 2

♠ K 9 6 4
♥ Q 7
♦ K Q 6
♣ K J 10 3

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | | | 1 ♣ |
| Pass | 1 ♠ | Pass | 2 ♠ |
| Pass | 4 ♠ | Pass | Pass |
| Pass | | | |

4 ♠ by North
Lead: ♦ J

North is to play 4 ♠. East leads the ♦ J, covered by the ♦ Q and ♦ A. West returns a ♦ to the ♦ K.

You still have two losers in the ♥ suit, so the question is which way you plan to finesse the ♣s. And of course the answer is that you don't plan to finesse them at all!

Pull trumps with the ♠ A, then ♠ K. Next ruff dummy's last ♦.

Now exit with a ♥. The defenders win this and take another ♥ trick, leaving this position.

They must now break the ♣ suit for you or give you a ruff-sluff. Of course you would ruff in dummy and discard a ♣ from the 3-card holding in your hand.

If East is the one who has to play a ♣ you need to insert the ♣ T or ♣ J from dummy.

In either case you will no longer have a ♣ loser.