

SHORT SUITS MEAN CROSS RUFFS

This is a hand that I recently played on line:

D		N North		W	N	E	S
1		♠ AJ872			P	P	1♠
		♥ K63			P	1♣	2♣
		♦ J10543			P	4♠	P
		♣			P		
W West		E East					
♠ 96		♠ K4					
♥ QJ		♥ 9854					
♦ K987		♦ AQ6					
♣ K9654		♣ 10872					
S South							
♠ Q1053							
♥ A1072							
♦ 2							
♣ AQJ3							
				4♠ N NS: 0 EW: 0			

The points are fairly evenly distributed around the table. After two passes, my partner opened 1♣ and I bid my 5-card spade suit. With two 5-card suits, bid the higher ranking suit first. My partner supported spades and I jumped to game. After South supported my suit, my hand got significantly better. Now I'm looking at probably 9 trump and my void in clubs is sure to be helpful. Voids always are helpful.

Put yourself in my North position as declarer is 4♠. You get a ♥9 lead from East. You see there are only 22 HCP between us, but the dummy has the magic singleton that may allow the hand to make 11 tricks. You should win the first trick in the dummy with the ♥A and lead a low diamond to your hand. This will be won by East. It will be obvious to him that you're planning to trump diamonds, but he can't lead a trump without forfeiting his natural ♠K trick. He will lead a club. Take the ♣A and lead to the ♥K. Start cross ruffing diamonds and clubs. On the fourth diamond, East will be out and will probably rise with the ♠K. Let him have this natural trump trick and discard a heart. You will win whatever he returns and pull the remaining 3 outstanding trump. You have the good ♦J as your 11th trick. Well done!

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/q47oocg> .Or, copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.