

## Last Week's Competition

Here is the hand:

**Board 6**  
East Deals  
E-W Vul

	♠ A J		
	♥ A J 10 8 3		
	♦ A J 7		
	♣ A 9 4		
♠ —		♠ 9 6 5 2	
♥ K Q 9 6 5		♥ 7 4 2	
♦ K 4 3		♦ 10 9 8 5 2	
♣ Q J 10 5 3		♣ K	
	♠ K Q 10 8 7 4 3		
	♥ —		
	♦ Q 6		
	♣ 8 7 6 2		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	6 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
		All pass	

On seeing dummy, declarer can see seven Spade tricks, one Heart trick, two Diamond tricks (regardless of where the King of Diamonds is) and one Club trick bringing them to.....Eleven. They will need to look elsewhere to find that necessary twelfth trick. As is so often the case when we have all-but-one of the tricks we need. The solution is to play a **squeeze** and one of the requirements of a squeeze is that we lose that one trick we can afford *early*.

Believe it or not, the winning play is to duck the opening club lead. East will now have to lead something and a trump is probably the most appealing. Declarer should win this in Dummy. Cash the Ace of Hearts (throwing away a Club), ruff the Three of Hearts, draw another trump with dummy's big trump and then ruff the Eight of Hearts. Declarer can now lead the Queen of Diamonds. This will be covered by the King and declarer can then cash the Jack of Diamonds before ruffing the Ten of Hearts.

They can now play their last two trumps (drawing East's pesky low trumps). The second to last trump causes West no problems, but on the last trump this is what they see:

### Dummy

♠ Void  
♥ J  
♦ Void  
♣ A9

### Declarer

♠ Q  
♥ Void  
♦ Void  
♣ 87

Declarer now leads the Jack of Spades and they have to find a discard from the following cards:

### Helpless Defender

♠ Void  
♥ K

♦ Void

♣ QJ

What do they throw? If they choose to play the King of Hearts, dummy will discard the Nine of Clubs and win the last two tricks. So they can't do that. But if they choose to play the Jack of Clubs, dummy will instead discard the Jack of Hearts and **still** win the last two tricks!

Congratulations John (and well done to the other correct-but-slower entries). There are a few other possible ways to play this hand, but it is best to try to ruff the Hearts out first. If that suit splits evenly or if the King and Queen of Hearts are singleton with West, or if either player has them doubleton or tripleton (that's definitely a word) then you don't need the squeeze.

If you neglect to duck the opening lead, you can still make by playing a **squeeze without the count**, essentially running all your trumps, counting the hand perfectly and then throwing West in at the end with whichever suit they've given up on. However, a simple squeeze will be easier to execute (and has the added benefit of catching short heart honours).

If you have any interesting hands that come up (or hands you wish you'd known how to play) we would love to hear about them at: [Canberrabridgeteaching@gmail.com](mailto:Canberrabridgeteaching@gmail.com).