

35- 2023 – The Squeeze

This one came up at the Club this week, you sit South

Dealer W Nil Vul

THE FULL HAND

	NORTH	
	KJ2	
	A98	
	A10732	
	K7	
WEST		EAST
A54		10986
3		J10652
Q9864		5
J1052		943
	SOUTH	
	Q73	
	KQ74	
	KJ	
	AQ86	

The bidding goes as follows:

S	W	N	E
1NT	P	6NT	P
P	P		

THE PLAY

West led D6

South took stock. The SA is a sure loser. There are 2 Spade, 3 Heart, 3 Diamond (because of the lead) and 3 Club winners = 11 Tricks (1 short)

The 12th Trick comes easily if the Diamonds behave (3:3, or if DQ is Doubleton, Singleton or is played on Trick 1)

South plays low in Dummy, West the D5, and South DJ

South then plays DK, discovering the bad break in Diamonds. They will not yield the extra trick needed. [South notes East threw a Heart]

South then looked at Hearts. If they break 3:3 or HJ and H10 are Doubleton, then the extra Trick will come from Hearts. South played HK and a Heart to HA, discovering the bad break in Hearts. They will not yield the extra Trick. [South notes West threw a Diamond]

So, the only hope is Clubs....

[4 Tricks have been played; everyone has 9 Cards left]

South plays SQ then SK. West takes SA and plays another Spade to SJ in Dummy. East follows, 1 Spade is left with East or West

[7 Tricks have been played; everyone has 6 Cards left – see below]

	NORTH	
	-	
	9	
	A107	
	K7	
WEST		EAST
-		10
-		J10
Q9		-
J1052		943
	SOUTH	
	-	
	Q7	
	-	
	AQ86	

Dummy then leads H9 to HQ. West cannot let go a Diamond (or Dummy's D10 will score), so plays a low Club, hoping Partner has something High in Clubs

South then runs off 4 Club winners, 6NT made

COMMENT

Bridge is about counting your tricks and developing suits. Here as Diamonds and the Hearts fail to provide the extra Trick, South squeezes West into throwing the winning Club as he cannot bare the DQ

MORAL OF THE STORY

Counting and double-counting, and watching every card fall is imperative in Bridge. That is not easy to do, but practicing all the time helps

Ian Morison

Bridge lover

3 November 2023