

Javea Bridge

Friday November 24th 2017

I have been looking for a straight forward play hand for some weeks without luck until this hand cropped up. The play involves a squeeze – but the sort that should be found and managed easily.

Friday 10th Nov.	North Bd9 Dealer N, EW Vul. ♠ T93 ♥ AQJ97654 ♦ Q3 ♣ -	
West ♠ AQJ2 ♥ K2 ♦ 964 ♣ AK52		East ♠ 64 ♥ T ♦ AK72 ♣ QJ7643
	South ♠ K875 ♥ 82 ♦ JT85 ♣ T98	

There is not much to the bidding – North opened 4H and, after West doubled, east had to choose between a pessimistic 5C and a slightly optimistic 6C. We chose 6C.

The Heart lead lost to the Queen and then the Ace was ruffed high.

Trumps were drawn finishing in the East hand (North throwing Hearts) and the Spade finesse taken. When this won it was time to pause and count tricks.

3 Spades, 2 Diamonds and 6 Clubs give only 11 tricks so you must make an extra trick in Spades or Diamonds. Clearly this cannot happen unless, as seems reasonable, South is 4-2-4-3 and will be unable to guard both Diamonds and Spades at trick 7.

Once you know this the squeeze is easy – all you have to do is to play trumps and remember to watch the spades.

So when the finesse wins return to hand with a trump, South throwing a diamond, and then play the last trump.

South has 3 Diamonds and 3 Spades and any discard is fatal.

Dummy throws a Diamond

Probably a Diamond is best and hope East goes wrong when playing a Spade to the Jack and the Spade Ace.

On the spade Ace South can throw the King and hope East has not been watching properly. Any East who knows a little of squeezes will know there is still a losing Spade and will play Diamonds and find that trick 13 is won by the Diamond 7!