

Dealer  
WEST 9 EAST  
SOUTH

# Bath Replays

## 16 A positional squeeze

Board 9. Tuesday 3 July, 2007.

The bidding on this board was short and sweet. North/South were not playing weak 2s, and West got the job done in a single bid:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	Pass	4♠
All pass			

The hand looks innocuous enough, but as the play progresses, North and South come under heavy pressure.

North led the ♦4 to the King and Ace. A spade to the Queen was taken by the Ace, and the crucial moment for the defence had been reached. At it happens, South got it wrong and exited with a small diamond - which West ran to the ten in dummy.

West now came back to hand with a heart ruff and drew trumps in three more rounds, North and East discarding hearts. Can you see the squeeze beginning to take shape? West now cashed the ♦Q to isolate the diamond menace against South. In positional double squeeze play all winners must be cashed in the suit that menaces the right hand opponent before the squeeze card is played. West now ran the rest of the trumps to reach this position when the last trump is played:

♠ -		♠ -
♥ A		♥ K
♦ -		♦ 10
♣ Q109		♣ A7
♠ 5	Dealer	♠ -
♥ -	WEST 9 EAST	♥ -
♦ -		♦ -
♣ K43	SOUTH	♣ -
♠ -		♠ -
♥ -		♥ -
♦ J		♦ -
♣ J82		♣ -

♠ 3		♠ Q
♥ AQ10932		♥ KJ876
♦ 43		♦ 10986
♣ Q1095		♣ A76
♠ KJ109652	Dealer	♠ -
♥ -	WEST 9 EAST	♥ -
♦ AQ5		♦ -
♣ K43	SOUTH	♣ -
♠ A874		♠ -
♥ 54		♥ -
♦ KJ72		♦ -
♣ J82		♣ -

The split three-card menace in clubs makes this squeeze quite flexible. The North and South cards can be interchanged and the squeeze will still operate. This is still a positional squeeze, because one of the menaces in dummy has to be discarded on the last trump (the squeeze card). Note that both one-card menaces are opposite the squeeze card, and that the left hand opponent must be squeezed first.

West cashed the last trump and North discarded a club to retain the ♥A. The ♥K was discarded from dummy, and it was South who now comes under pressure, unable to keep his master diamond and club guard. The three of clubs providing the twelfth trick.

What could North/South have done to prevent the squeeze? For all squeezes to operate, three things are required: menaces, entries and timing. A club lead at trick one attacks the club entry, whilst a club switch when in with the trump ace kills the squeeze in its tracks.

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