



Bath Replays

24 An automatic double squeeze

Board 26. Thurs 13 March, 2008.

The dealer was East, and both sides were vulnerable.

The auction:

East	South	West	North
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass		
3NT	All pass		

♠ 983
 ♥ Q109
 ♦ Q10764
 ♣ A3
 ♠ AK4
 ♥ 75
 ♦ KJ93
 ♣ K864
 ♠ 107
 ♥ AK864
 ♦ 8
 ♣ J10952
 ♠ QJ652
 ♥ J32
 ♦ A52
 ♣ Q7

The auction was straightforward. West's no-trump showed 14-16 points; East transferred to hearts. East's three clubs was natural - if a tad aggressive - and West's three no-trumps ended proceedings.

The play is where all the action happened. Looking at all four hands, you'll see that a spade lead defeats the contract, so long as North unblocks either the 8 or 9. North's actual choice was a small diamond which South won with the ace, and then continued the suit.

North won with the ten, (dummy throwing a heart) and pondered. A spade or a heart would keep declarer to nine tricks. North tried a club in an attempt to find South's entry (he didn't have one). West won, and North was back on lead with the club ace. The spade switch was won by the King. West then cleared the clubs to reach the following position with the lead in dummy:

♠ -
 ♥ Q109
 ♦ Q10
 ♣ -
 ♠ A4
 ♥ 7
 ♦ KJ
 ♣ -
 ♠ 10
 ♥ AK86
 ♦ -
 ♣ -
 ♠ Q6
 ♥ J32
 ♦ -
 ♣ -

Notice how there has to be communication between both hands. The spade ten to the ace squeezed North in the red suits; then the play of the diamond king squeezed South in the majors.

The characteristic that makes this squeeze *automatic* is the idle card in dummy: the fourth heart, which can be discarded irrespective of the defenders' actions. (See Bath replay 16 which highlighted a *positional* double squeeze and its attributes). Also note that this squeeze is *sequential*, not simultaneous. If the lead was in the west hand the diamond king would squeeze South, and then the spade ace would squeeze North.

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