



Strips and Squeezes Tournament Series #11

www.bridgewebs.com/borderlinebridge

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Grafton Duplicate Bridge Club
 Thursday Noon – Ameriprise Financial Bldg
 Stratified Pairs – Bridge lessons at 11am
 Director – Michael Leighton (701) 520-0753

Grand Forks Duplicate Bridge Club
 Monday 6:30pm – GF Senior Center
 Stratified Pairs – Bridge lessons at 5:45pm
 Friday 12:30pm – EGF Senior Center
 Director – Tom Rand (701) 742-3676

Ambassador Bridge Club Winnipeg MB
 Tuesday 12:15pm – MB Bridge Centre
 Stratified Pairs
 Wednesday 7pm – MB Bridge Centre
 Invitational Pairs and Swiss Teams
 Thursday 1pm – (0 – 200) Temple Shalom
 Play and learn
 Saturday 12:30pm – MB Bridge Centre
 Swiss Teams
 Director – Bill and Sue Treble (204) 669-1458

Squeeze Play

To become an expert on Squeeze play it is essential to understand the **BLUE Law** devised by Mr Clyde E Love. These four conditions must exist for a squeeze, with the acronym BLUE.

- B** One Defender Must have **BUSY** Cards in 2 suits while his partner is helpless
- L** Declarer must have only 1 more **LOSER** (Getting down to 1 loser is "rectifying the count")
- U** At least one threat must lie in the **UPPER** hand (The Upper hand is behind the Busy defender)
- E** There must be an **ENTRY** to the established threat

Famous bridge player, Terrence Reese said "Where there are 11 tricks, there are usually 12". How can this be?

	NORTH		
	♠		
	♥		
WEST	♦Q 2	EAST	
♠	♣7	♠	
♥K		♥8	
♦J 8		♦	
♣		♣J 9	
	SOUTH		
	♠		
	♥Q		
	♦9		
	♣K		

South Plays the ♣K, what is WEST to do? West has no **IDLE** cards. They are all **BUSY**. If West discards the ♥K, SOUTH takes the ♥Q and goes to dummy for the ♦Q. If West discards the ♦8, SOUTH goes to dummy and takes the ♦Q 2. All the tricks are SOUTH's while WEST's winners disappear.

According to Wikipedia there are 20 different types of Squeezes. One is called the "Suicide" Squeeze. It involves cashing a trick that requires partner to discard a **Busy** card allowing the opponents to take the rest.

Humorously, the Suicide Squeeze references running a long suit and having to discard potential winners before your suits are established. The lesson is that... A good declarer loses their tricks, that are necessary to lose to set up winners, early in the play. A bad declarer cashes their aces and other winners early in the play before establishing the winners necessary to make the contract. Bad declarers are fans of the Suicide Squeeze.

BLUE Law



BLUE Law

Almost every Bridge Player has had the experience of playing out a hand and the opponent sluffs a card making their hand good and the contract is made.

Oftentimes the defender has to make a choice of which card to discard and through luck or skill or whatever, it makes a trick good in your hand allowing that game or slam to roll home.

Have you ever wondered... How did that happen? What is going on? The answer is the BLUE Law.

Attached is a simple explanation. To fully understand Squeeze play you may need to read the books. Clyde E Love has FREE practice hands available online.

There are many books written on Squeeze Play, as it is a fun and fascinating part of the play in Bridge.

A very good discussion board at BBO is FREE at <http://www.bridgebase.com/forums/topic/5480-introduction-to-squeeze-plays/>

Mr Clyde E Love, a professor of mathematics at Ann Arbor, Michigan, who died in 1960, wrote an excellent theory book "Bridge Squeezes Complete or Winning End Play Strategy". The publisher has made FREE Practice Hands available as a download at https://ebooksbridge.com/www/ebb/index.php?main_page=ebb_product_book_info&products_id=377

Two other excellent books on Squeeze Play are "The Simple Squeeze" by Frank P Schuld and "Squeeze Play Simplified" by Norman Squire.

Strip and End Play

Enabling the Opponents to Help You



An "End Play" is when you give an opponent a trick so that they must lead a suit to you so that you take 2 tricks in that suit, as opposed to cashing a winner and then losing 2 tricks. You have gained 1 trick in the play.

The most common situation involves forcing a defender to lead a suit into your "tenace".

The ACBL defines a "tenace" as "Two cards in the same suit, of which one ranks two degrees lower than the other; the major tenace is A-Q; the minor tenace is K-J; more broadly, any holding of cards not quite in sequence in a suit."

Some would refer to the strip and endplay as a "throw-in" play... As you are "throwing in" your opponent so that they must lead a preferred suit, a suit with a "tenace", back to you.

Strip and End Play is all about having the opponents break suits for you.

Strip and End Play maneuvers often coincide with Squeezes as you are forcing discards from opponents so that they must break a new suit or play a suit that is favorable to you.

There are good examples online at <http://www.bridgebum.com/endplay.php>

East was active in the bidding either by doubling for takeout or opening the bidding. You "know" he has the balance of power of the opponents. What can you do?

NORTH		
♠		
♥ A Q		
WEST	♦	EAST
♠	♣ 7	♠
♥ J 8		♥ K 9
♣ J	SOUTH	♦
	♠	♣ A
	♥ 6	
	♦ 9	
	♣ K	

SOUTH plays the ♣K, EAST wins the ♣A. EAST has no choice but to lead a ♥ into dummy's tenace. Sometimes EAST will see the endplay coming and will discard a ♥ early in the play so that he holds ♥K stiff, knowing you won't take the finesse. You count the ♥ suit to know if the ♥K will drop stiff. Despite EAST's tomfoolery, you win.

Your combined holdings are

♠A32

♠JT4

If you break the suit, your chances of taking 2 tricks are 10%.

If the opponents break the suit, your chances of taking 2 tricks are 76%.

You be the judge...which is better?

Helen Sobel Smith, perhaps the greatest woman player ever, had this to say about her first endplay in "Winning Bridge" in 1950.

"I think that bridge really got into my blood a certain day in the thirties when a world-shattering incident occurred:

"I was declarer in a 6♠ contract, doubled by my right hand opponent. He had actually turned up with the QJT of trumps - I had cashed the ace and king - and I was disconsolately sure that he would turn up with the king of hearts, over dummy's ace-queen.

"Simply to delay the awful end as long as possible, I gathered in my tricks in diamonds; then (hoping my partner would not be too disagreeable about my slam bid), I was just about to take the necessary heart finesse when the Vision Appeared!

"I led a trump. East was 'in', and his forced ♥ return, to dummy's tenace, made me tingle with delight and self-appreciation.

"That, so far as I was concerned was the Birth of the End Play (perhaps it's needless to say I hadn't been playing bridge very long)."

Beginning Bridge players take finesses at every opportunity. Expert Bridge Players avoid finesses whenever possible. Look for "Squeezes" and "Strip and Endplay" opportunities on every hand.