Pre-emptive Styles

Patrick, April 2018

Storyboard for tonight

- Why have pre-empts?
- Good and bad points of each
- Calibration exercise
- Defending against pre-empts
- <play some hands and discuss>
-
break>
- Next topic squeezes
- <play some hands and discuss>
- <any questions>

PART 1

Some theory around pre-empts

Which bids are pre-empts?

- Principle of forcing bids
 - makes other bids spare bids

Best use of spare bids is pre-emptive

- jump openings
- jump overcalls
- jump responses

Why Pre-empt?

- Constructive purposes
 - describes the hand, leaves partner to decide

- Obstructive purposes
 - makes life difficult for others
 - just opening the bidding does this at any level

The balance between these ...

How well does pre-empting work?

• Rule of 500?

- Bidding has improved
 - when given a free run
 - so we pre-empt more

Defending pre-empts also better understood

What's good for constructive?

- The description being honest
 - single suited
 - HCP suitable for suit play
 - commensurate with the level of the bidding
 - length and suit quality

- Being able to run tricks in NT
 - entries to the long suit
- Extra shape if to play in a suit

What's good for obstructive?

- Being in first or third seat
- Being non-vulnerable
- Lead-directing value
- Difficult suit to penalise
- Short in their target suit (often majors)
- The SPADE suit
- Lack of defensive values

Debate over ranges

How wide a range can you handle?

- If there ever a hand which is
 - too good to pre-empt, but
 - not good enough for a 1-level opener ?

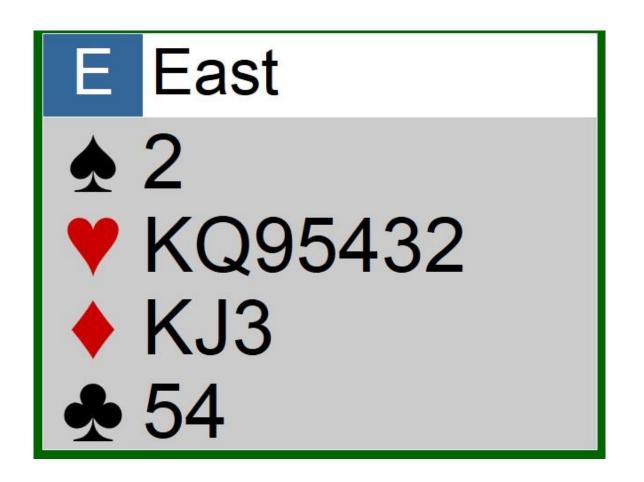
PART 2

Calibrating our Pre-empts



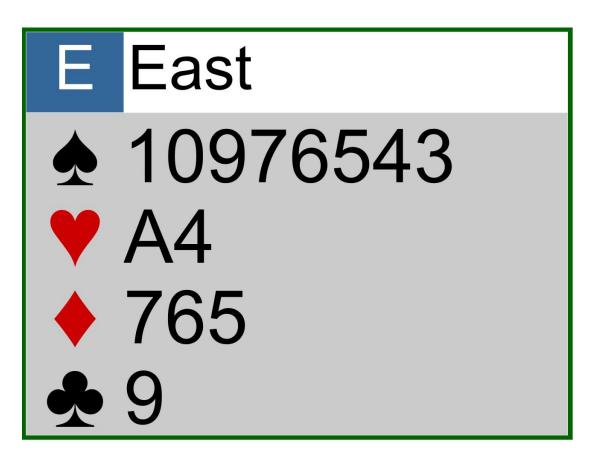
first seat at white

Vanilla 3♠ for many but being so pure many today would open 4♠



second seat vulnerable

Maximum constructive position, so this is just as expected for 3 ♥.



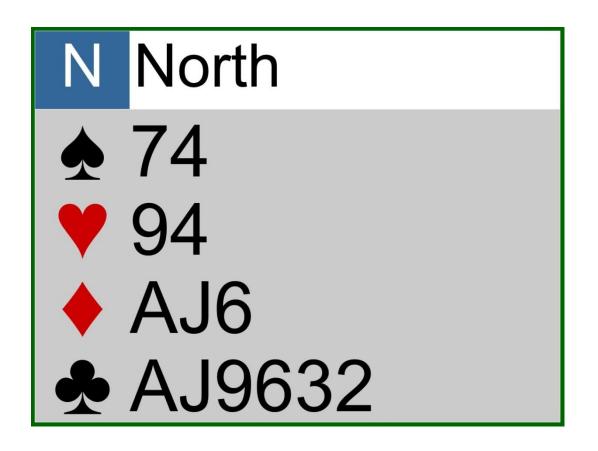
second seat nonvulnerable

Semi-constructive position and not good enough for 3♠ but the extra trump compensates for lesser values and justifies 2♠.



first seat at green

Maximum obstruction needed here and most would stretch this to 3♠ and some to 4♠



first seat at green

Good time to be obstructive but too many defensive values and lead might not be helpful. Best to pass.

PART 3

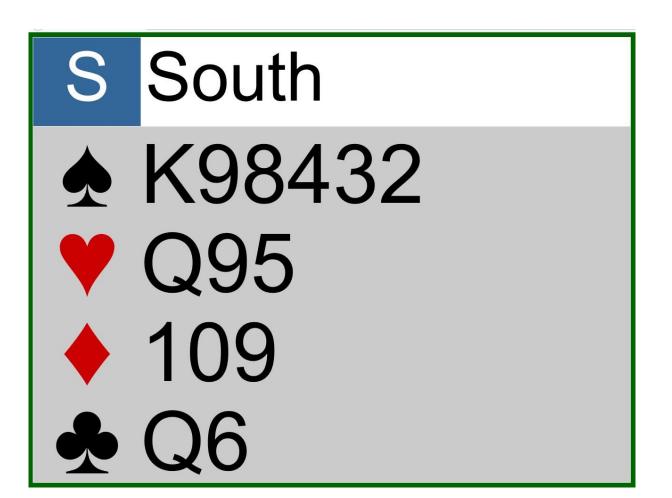
Pre-empting in International Events

PRE EMPTS

- Take a sheet and run through the examples, individually.
 - it is about calibration, not about excess!

Then I'll tell you what happened when the hand occurred

Then we will talk general principles.



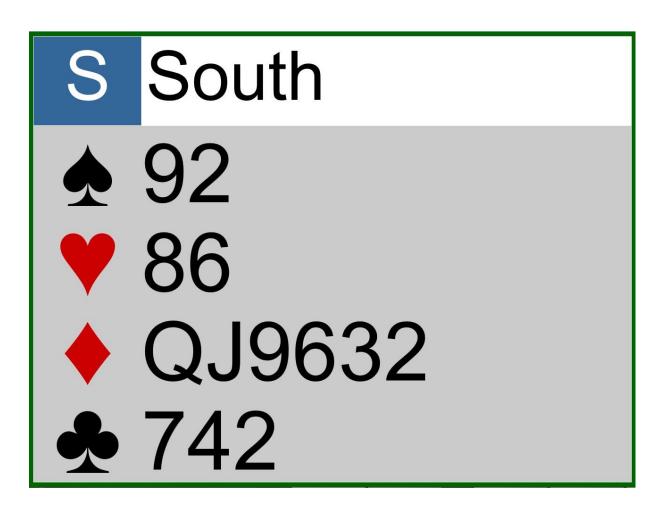
third seat at green

Of the 5 we know, four opened weak 2-bid, one opened weak-3.



first seat at red

Of the five we know, three passed – suit quality not right at this vulnerability.



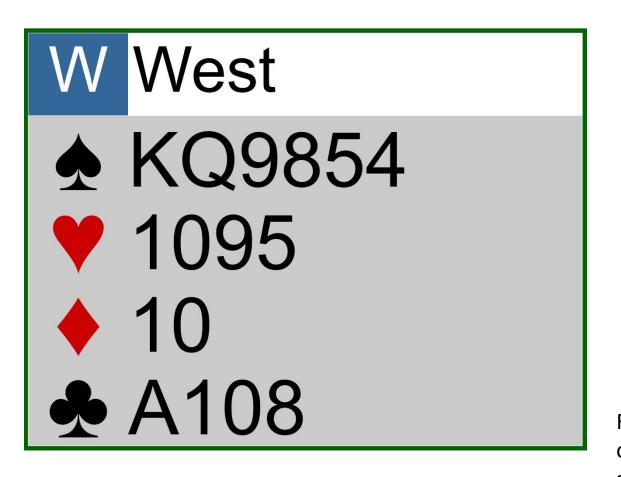
first seat at green

Three passed, two opened 2 ♦ and one opened 3 ♦



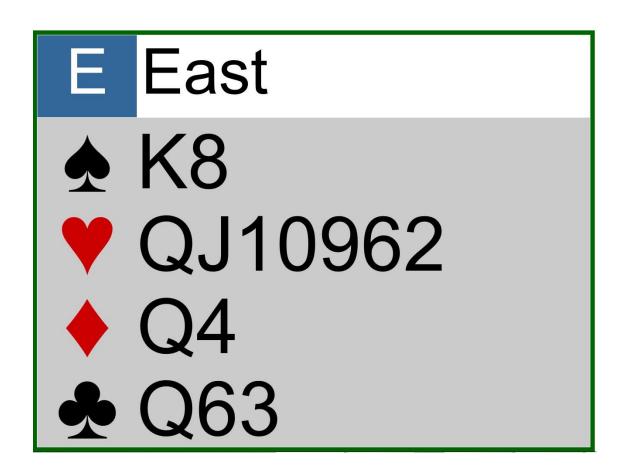
first seat at red

Five opened weak-2 and one opened weak-3.



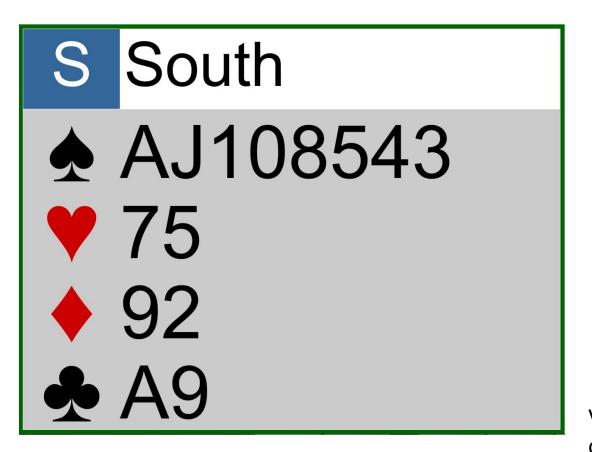
first seat at amber

Four opened weak 2 h but one deemed it too strong and opened 1 h and they got to game in hearts!



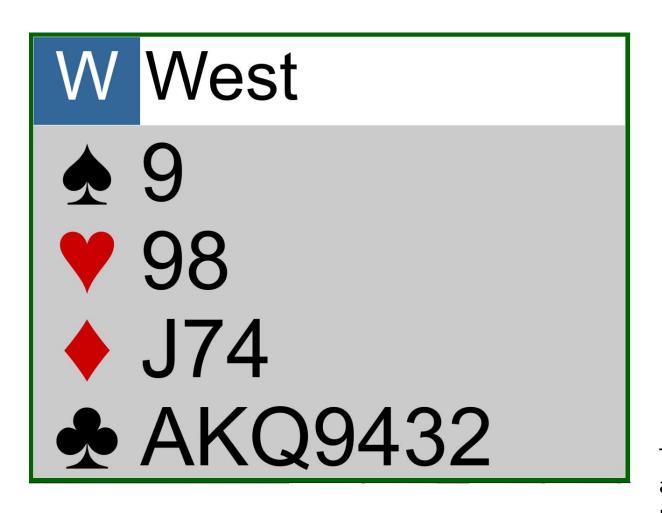
second seat at white

Four opened weak-2 but one deemed it too strong and opened 1 •



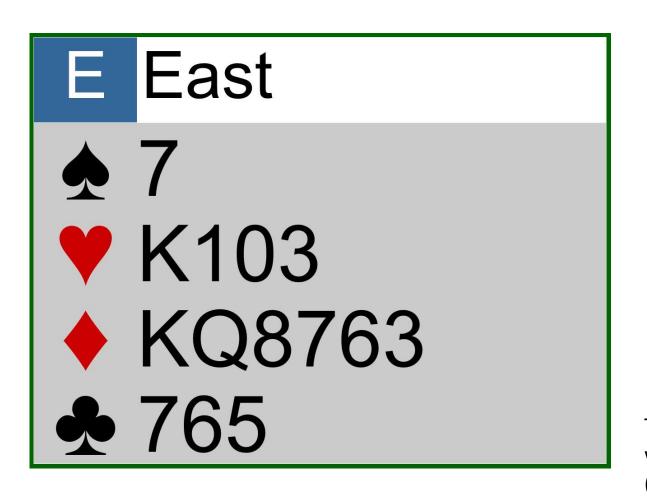
first seat at red

Very close call and three opened 3♥ and three opened 1♥.



first seat at white

Three of six opened a gambling 3N – a mix of obstructive and constructive.



first seat at amber

Three of six opened a weak two bid in diamonds (but not all six had this available – numbers uncertain)



second seat at green

Only one chose a weak two bid in spades.

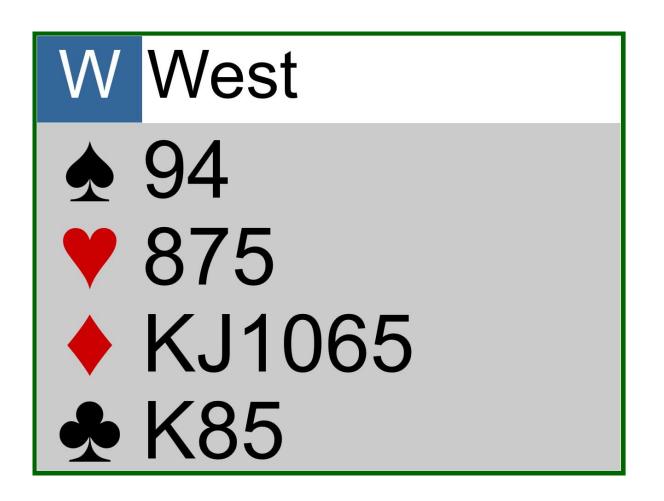
Samples from the rest

12 hands you will not see

• 32 hands of 160 => 20%

Only 1/32 was a pre-emptive overcall

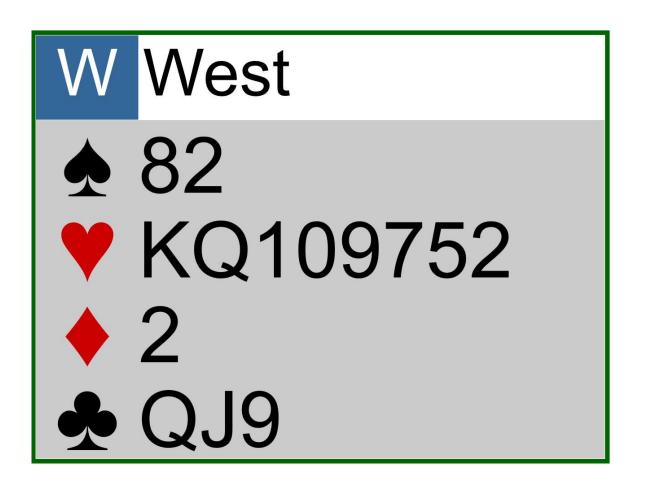
B3.18



third seat at green

Four opened 2 ♦, the others 1 ♦ and 3 ♦.
The 1 ♦ opener had the best effect.

B3.24



first seat at white

Three opened 3♥, three opened 4♥.

B5.3



third seat at green

Three passed but two opened 3 ♦, and one opened 1 ♦.

B5.5



second seat at green

Four opened 1 and one opened a very heavy 2; and the only one to pass found the heart fit when partner was 0517 shape.

KEY POINTS ON PREMPTS

- First seat is where it pays to stretch
 - particularly when no defensive values
- Extra shape (7411, 7420, 7510) bids higher
 - and the hand is not always so weak
- Ideal weak two (suit quality or 6421) often upgraded
- In third seat anything goes
 - second seat is constructive as well as obstructive

PART 4

Over their pre-empt

Points to remember

Points to remember

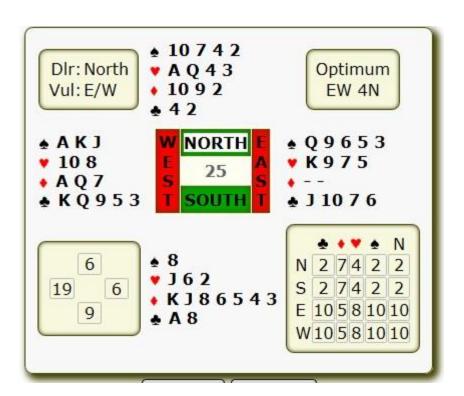
- you want to be able to bid 2-suiters
 - Leaping Michaels over weak2 (and jump 4 ◆)
 - Cue bids over weak2 and weak3
 - 4N as 2-suiter with any lower suits

My preference : over their weak 3m, 4L bids Multi-Landy

Points to remember

- Points to remember
 - you want to be able to bid 2-suiters (Michaels)

- cue bid when partner overcalls : multi-purpose
 - only choice with good raise
 - can be only choice to find another suit



7	Board No 25 E/W Vul Dealer North										
Deal: 170904GCBA											
NS	EW	Bid	Ву	Ld	Tks	+Sc	-Sc	+	120		
1	7	4.	Е	♣A	11	71	650	-1	1		
2	11	3NT	W	•10	11		660				
3	4	3NT	W	♦10	11		660				
4	3	3NT	W	•10	11		660				
6	10	4♥	Е	* 2	9	100		13	-13		
7	1	3NT	W	•J	10		630	1	-1		
8	9	3NT	W	•9	11		660	-13	13		
9	8	5 v	Е	≜ 8	9	200		13	-13		
10	6	4♠	Е	• 5	11		650	-13	13		
11	2	4♠	Е	* 3	11		650				

N	E	S	W
Р	Р	4 •	?

West tried a natural 4N but East thought it was a 2-suiter!

Points to remember

- Points to remember
 - you want to be able to bid 2-suiters (Michaels)
 - cue bid when partner overcalls : multi-purpose

after partner overcalls 3N you want a system

PART 5

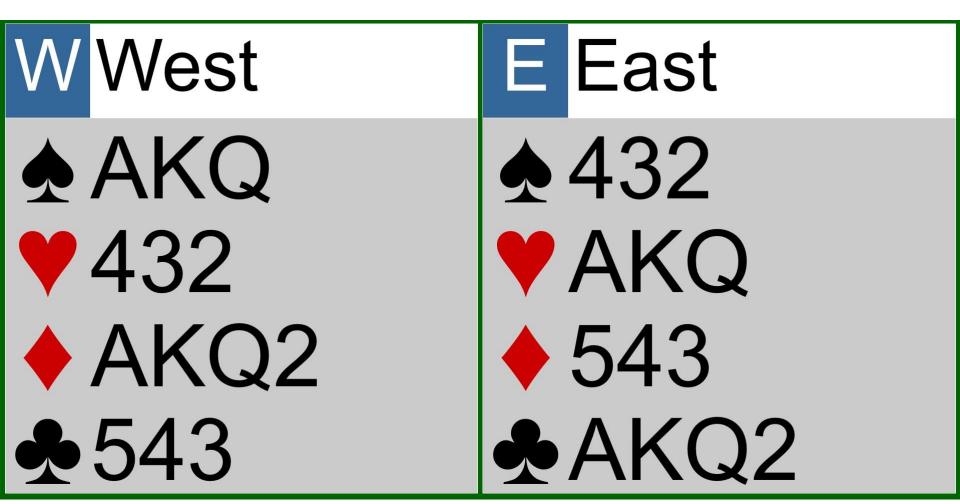
Looking at Squeezes

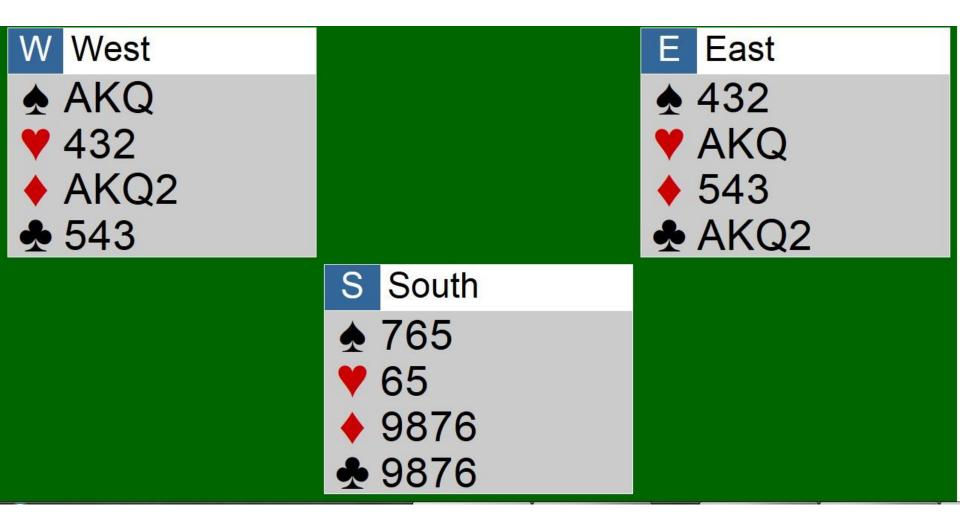
Key Points to Note

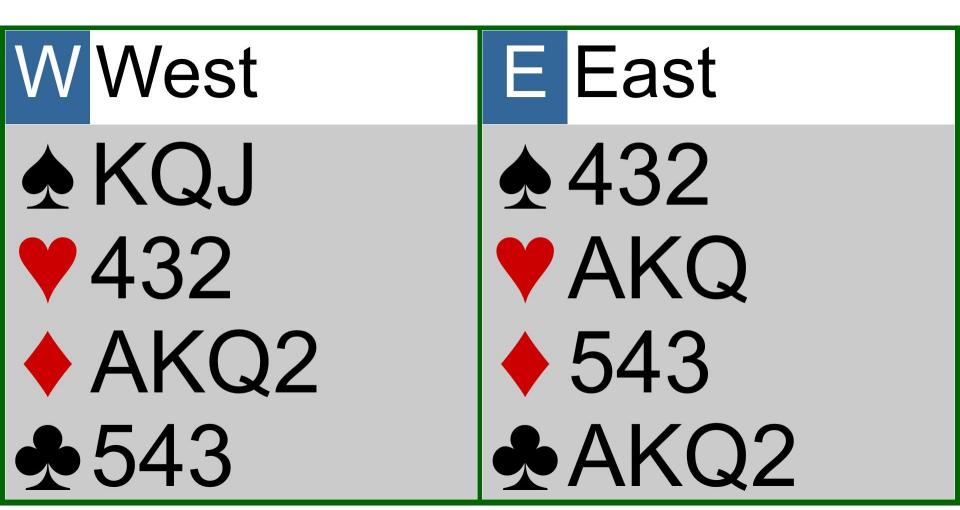
Many squeezes are just about being careful

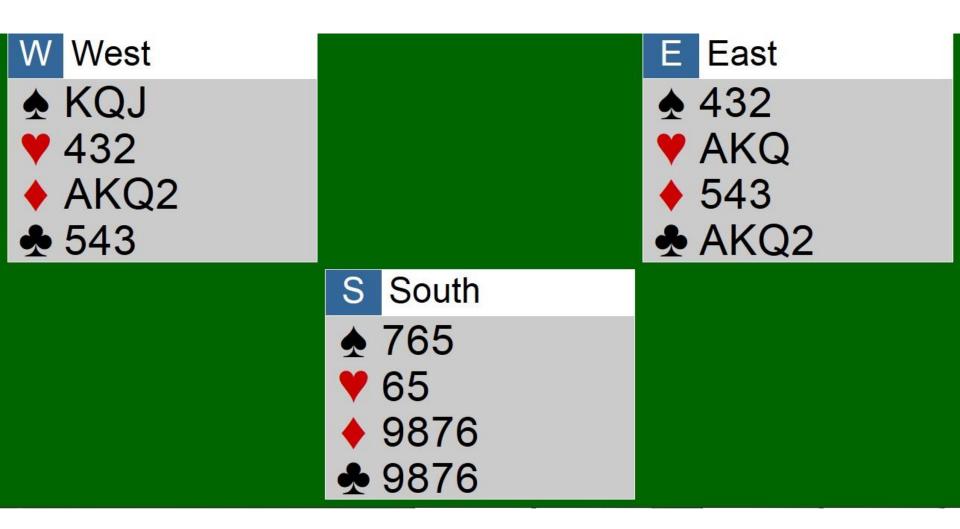
You need to envisage the opponent's difficulty

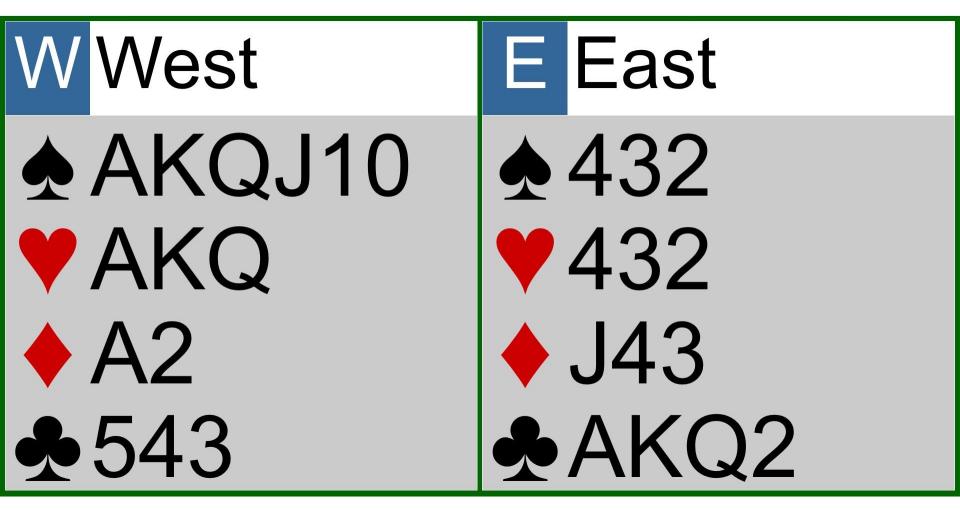
Today just some simple squeezes

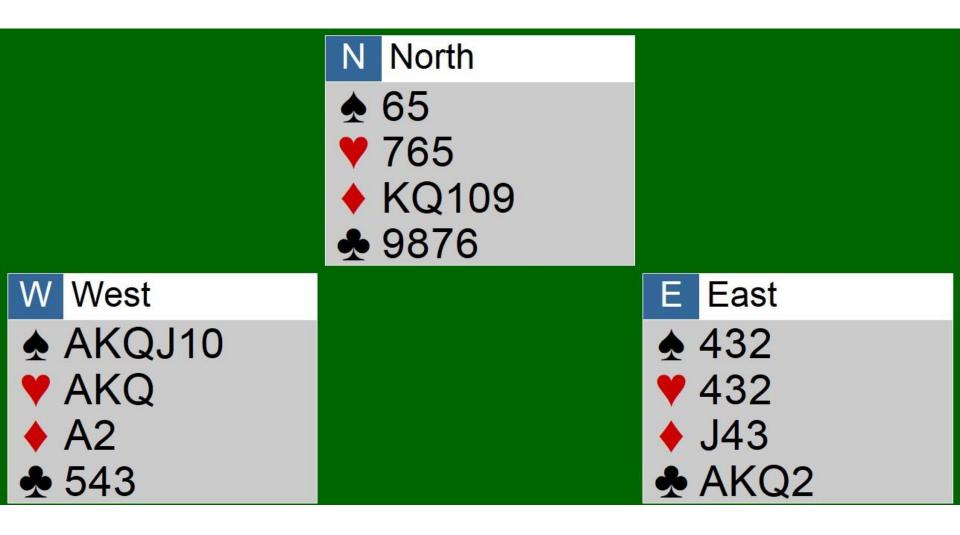


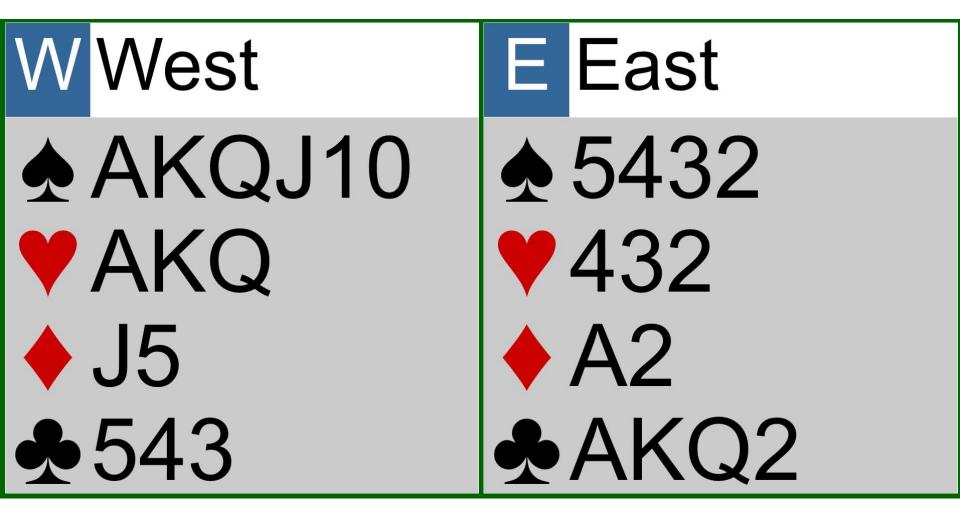


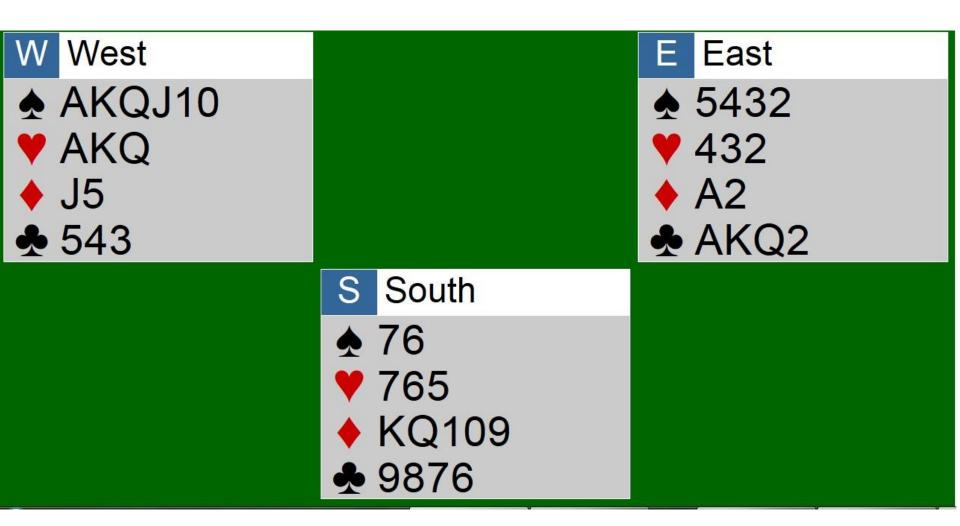












E East **W** West **432 ♦** AKQJ10 VKQ2 **Y**A43 **♦** 532 ◆ AJ4 ♣AK52 **4**3



Key Points to Note

- Many squeezes are just about being careful
- You need to envisage the opponent's difficulty

- Works best if you have all but one of the tricks
- You might need to unblocks suits first

Today just some simple squeezes

HAPPY TO TAKE QUESTIONS

On what we have done, or what we have not done