

25/05/2022 Hand of the Week 89: Triple squeeze

This week an unusual hand in which a player gets squeezed in 3 suits!

	N davehar	W N E S
	♠ A9 ♥ A76 ♦ A65 ♣ QJ732	3♠ P P X P 4♥ P P P
W Coppice21		E CharlesJWD
	S med029	
	♠ Q876 ♥ KJ953 ♦ K32 ♣ 6	4♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0

After a pre-empt by East, partner doubles and with reasonable values in the other major game is reached.

West leads A♣ and when dummy comes down it is clear they have a void in spades

East plays 4♣. On the second club dummy plays J♣ to East's K♣, ruffed in hand

What next?

There is a loser in diamonds that can potentially be thrown on a club

We know that East holds the honours in spades, so should be able to play the suit for 1 loser by winning A and leading low to the Q, with the 4th spade either being ruffed or thrown on a club

We also have a potential heart loser

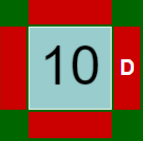

We don't want to lose any spade ruffs so the first thing to do is draw trumps

After playing A♥ then K♥ with both opponents following low, then lead to dummy's A♦

We can safely play the Q♣ to throw our diamond loser, and ruff a club

Now play the K♦, and tackle the spades- low towards the A♠

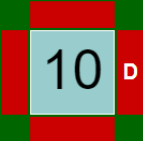
This is the current position, with declarer having lost 1 trick and won 7:

	N davehar ♠ A9 ♥ 6 ♦ 6 ♣ 7	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>N</th> <th>E</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>3♠</td> <td>P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>X</td> <td>P</td> <td>4♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td>P</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	W	N	E	S			3♠	P	P	X	P	4♥	P	P	P	
	W	N	E	S														
		3♠	P															
P	X	P	4♥															
P	P	P																
W Coppice21 ♠ ♥ Q ♦ QJ8 ♣ 9		E CharlesJWD ♠ KJ1054 ♥ ♦ ♣																
	S med029 ♠ Q87 ♥ J ♦ ♣	4♥ S																

At this point West seems to have 3 winners in their hand. West could ruff- but this allows declarer to throw their small spade, ruff any return and win AS and their heart in dummy

West can safely throw a diamond, but what happens next? After dummy wins A♠ another spade is lead, won by East's K♠. West can throw their second diamond but on the third round of spades they are squeezed in all the remaining suits!

They cannot ruff for the reasons described above, throwing the Q♦ establishes dummy's 6♦, and throwing the 9♣ establishes dummy's 6♣!

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W Coppice21 ♠ ♥ Q102 ♦ QJ874 ♣ A10984		E CharlesJWD ♠ KJ105432 ♥ 84 ♦ 109 ♣ K5																
	S med029 ♠ Q876 ♥ KJ953 ♦ K32 ♣ 6	4♥ S NS: 0 EW: 0																