

MOUNTNESSING BRIDGE CLUB

Meets every Thursday at 7.25 for 7.30
at Mountnessing Village Hall, Roman Road, Mountnessing, Essex, England, CM15 0UG

“2020” Comments on “The elegant criss-cross squeeze”

Submission by Frank Morrison: [Click here](#)

Commentary by Alaric Cundy

Firstly, it is worth reminding readers that anybody can download the ‘Bridge Solver’ analytical tool for free, and use it to analyse different Declarer plays and / or defences, on any hand of their choosing – such as this one! To access ‘Bridge Solver Online’ go to this link:

<https://mirgo2.co.uk/bridgesolver/upload.htm> It is also available to download as an App for Android devices or Chromebooks or as a Windows desktop App here:

<https://mirgo2.co.uk/bridgesolver/index.php?section=1> This tool is embedded into the Bridgewebs website and it is used by the ‘Play it Again’ facility.

I looked at this hand to see whether there is anyway that East / West can break up the squeeze. Bridge Solver says that, with perfect play, South can always make 9 tricks. East / West can in fact give away an overtrick if they adopt careless play, and equally, there are plenty of opportunities for South to fail to make.

The first thought I had was whether East’s discard of the 9 of spades on trick 5, as a signal for a spade switch, was costly. Personally, I don’t like discard systems that require discards in the suit you want led, as, in some situations, you could be discarding a potential winning trick. Supposing your style allows you to throw the ten of hearts instead? Bridge Solver confirms that it makes no difference. Try it for yourself and see.

The second thought I had was whether West’s cashing of the second club was a mistake. Neither North or South are squeezed by that card, but East has to find a discard on it. In fact such a defence **does indeed** break the squeeze – but instead it sets up an end-play of East at trick 11. Try it for yourself! This is the 3-card end-position, with South on lead and East / West already having won 3 tricks:

	North ♠ 7 ♥ ♦ J8 ♣	
West ♠ ♥ ♦ T7 ♣ T		East ♠ Q ♥ ♦ Q5 ♣
	South ♠ 5 ♥ ♦ K9 ♣	

Declarer exits with the 5 of spades and East is forced to play away from the diamonds, conceding the last two tricks.

But well done to Frank for seizing the opportunity offered to him!