

Love squeeze by *Derrick Browne*

You, South, opened 1NT, West overcalled 2S, and North bid 6NT. Plan the play on the DK lead:

NORTH
S AK7
H AJ87
D 753
C AT6

SOUTH
S 842
H KQ3
D AT6
C KQJ4

You can count two tricks in spades, four in hearts, one diamond and four clubs, leaving you one short of the required total. Some magic will be needed! Solution later.

Clyde Love's 1959 book *Bridge Squeezes Complete* was rated as one of the game's great books. This year, over a half-century later, a revised second edition has been published.

Most of Love's original material has been retained, including his BLUE mnemonic for the four conditions that must be present for a simple squeeze to work:

B One defender is **Busy** in two suits, his partner being helpless.

L Declarer has only one **Loser** remaining.

U There is at least one threat in the hand to the left of the victim (a threat lies in the **Upper** hand).

E There is an **Entry** to the established threat.

Busy cards are ones that must be retained, such as prospective winners. If you are forced to discard a busy card, because you no longer have any idle (unneeded) cards left, you are said to be squeezed.

To effect a squeeze, declarer loses whatever tricks must be lost, early on, to use up the defenders' idle cards.

Declarer needs two "threats" or possible winners, and either they must be split (one in hand, one in dummy), or if in the same hand, it must be the "upper" hand, that gets to play after the person being squeezed ("to the left of the victim") else declarer will be the one who gets squeezed!

Perhaps obviously, there must be an entry, a way to get to the possible winners or threats.

Today's problem comes from another book, *The Simple Squeeze*, by David Bird and Tim Bourke.

NORTH
S AK7
H AJ87
D 753
C AT6

WEST
S QJT965
H 6
D KQJ4
C 85

EAST
S 3
H T9542
D 982
C 9732

SOUTH
S 842
H KQ3
D AT6
C KQJ4

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2S	6NT	All pass	1NT

West is busy, guarding two suits, spades and diamonds.

Following the second part of Love's BLUE theorem, declarer ducks the first trick so as to have only one loser, called "rectifying the count", then wins the diamond continuation and rattles off winners to reach this position:

	NORTH	
	S AK7	
	H —	
	D 7	
	C —	
WEST		EAST
S QJT		S 3
H —		H T
D J		D 9
C —		C 9
	SOUTH	
	S 84	
	H —	
	D T	
	C J	

When South leads the CJ, West must either throw the winning diamond or to abandon the spade guard. Declarer, with threats split between the two hands and with an entry to the threat in the other hand, is under no such pressure, and makes the pushy slam.