

Squeezing the extra trick *by Derrick Browne*

Today's hands come from last week's Wednesday night Swiss Pairs at Trumps in Mosman. In a Swiss event, first and second play off against each other, and so on.

On the first deal, West opened 1C, East responded 1H, and West rebid 2D. What does this promise?

Dealer West, both vul.

NORTH	
S KJ5	
H J7	
D T982	
C Q874	
WEST	EAST
S Q32	S A9
H T	H AKQ932
D AKQ5	D 4
C AKT65	C J932
SOUTH	
S T8764	
H 8654	
D J763	
C —	

Opener's 2D bid is a "reverse" (a new suit higher than rebidding the opened suit), showing over 16 points and an unbalanced hand, therefore at least five clubs. Over that, East might start by jumping to 3H but then, over West's 3NT rebid, East bids 4C to set clubs as trumps and 6C is reached. Pairs using Roman Keycard Blackwood can find that the trump queen is missing, and avoid reaching the doomed 7C contract that one pair found.

As the cards lie, West can make 13 tricks in notrumps. Alec Spiller achieved this, although he and partner Tim Rickard stopped in a more sensible 6NT. Cashing a top club reveals the bad break there, while cashing two top hearts reveals that all is well in that suit. Declarer cashes red suit winners to reach this position, with East leading the H2:

NORTH	
S KJ	
H —	
D —	
C Q8	
WEST	EAST
S Q3	S A
H —	H 2
D —	D —
C KT	C J9
SOUTH	
immaterial	

West discards the low club but North is squeezed. Declarer knows that North has two clubs left so North must guard those, so discards a spade. However, the SA is then cashed, felling North's bare king, after which West takes the last two tricks.

What contract should you be in on these hands?

Dealer East

WEST	EAST
S AJ42	S KQ87
H 762	H AK54
D AKQ2	D 53
C AQ	C 864

Alex Cook and Robin Ho bid to 6S after East opened the bidding (1C) with that nice 12-count. South had the CK so the club finesse provided an 11<sup>th</sup> trick. A club ruff could then be taken and that made 12 tricks, showing the benefit of playing in the 4-4 fit rather than notrumps.

North had long hearts and long diamonds which affords an opportunity for an overtrick. When declarer cashes the black suit winners, North is unable to guard both hearts and diamonds. If North discards diamonds, that makes dummy's D2 a winner, while discarding hearts is also fatal.