

CONJURING UP A TRICK

♠ KQ9843
 ♥ AK
 ♦ A53
 ♣ AJ

You are North in 6S. East leads the KC. How do you make 13 tricks?

♠ AJ52
 ♥ Q65
 ♦ K64
 ♣ 943

Thoughts:

You can count 12 tricks by way of 6 x spades, 3 x hearts, 2 x diamonds and 1 x club. There are no finesses to be taken, no shortages in dummy by which an extra trick can be gained via a ruff. In such situations, experienced declarers sometimes look for a squeeze in order to find that elusive extra trick. There are a number of different types of squeeze plays and this is an example of one of the simplest.

Squeezes require the correct positioning of threat cards, called menaces around the table as well as a means to get to them as well as no idle cards in the defender or defenders' hands which could be jettisoned to avoid being squeezed.

In this "simple" case, declarer wins AC, draws three rounds of trumps, cashes AH, KH and crosses to dummy with its fourth trump to play the QH, discarding a diamond, before returning to hand with the AD and running her trumps out in hand.

The end position is here.

27

Dir: S
Vul: None

♠ [redacted] 3

♥ [redacted]

♦ [redacted] 5

♣ [redacted] J

♠ [redacted]

♥ [redacted]

♦ QT [redacted]

♣ K [redacted]

♠ [redacted]

♥ [redacted]

♦ J [redacted]

♣ 87 [redacted]

♠ [redacted]

♥ [redacted]

♦ K6 [redacted]

♣ 9 [redacted]

	♠	♦	♥	♣	NT
N	2	3	2	7	7
S	2	3	2	7	7
E	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-

21

1 8

10

Now, when North plays her last trump, East is squeezed in clubs and diamonds. If she discards the KC, then North makes the JC. If she discards a diamond the rag diamond in the dummy will win the 13th trick.

This is the full board which was played on Wednesday night, 24 July 2019.

27		♠ KQ9843	Dir: S
		♥ AK	Vul: None
	♦ A53	♣ AJ	
♠ T76		♠ JT43	
♥ 9872		♦ QT987	
♦ J2		♣ KQT2	
♣ 8765			
	♠ AJ52		
	♥ Q65		
21	♦ K64		
1 8	♣ 943		
10			
		♠ ♦ ♥ ♣ NT	
		N 2 3 2 7 7	
		S 2 3 2 7 7	
		E - - - - -	
		W - - - - -	