

	<i>North phil</i>																															
Dealer:	♠ AQJ75																															
W	♥ 5																															
Vul: Both	♦ Q87																															
	♣ AK76																															
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"><i>West</i></td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"><i>East</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♠ 943</td> <td>♠ K62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ 83</td> <td>♥ J10742</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ KJ543</td> <td>♦ A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ 854</td> <td>♣ J1092</td> </tr> </table>			<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>	♠ 943	♠ K62	♥ 83	♥ J10742	♦ KJ543	♦ A	♣ 854	♣ J1092																				
<i>West</i>	<i>East</i>																															
♠ 943	♠ K62																															
♥ 83	♥ J10742																															
♦ KJ543	♦ A																															
♣ 854	♣ J1092																															
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"><i>South me</i></td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♠ 108</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♥ AKQ96</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♦ 10962</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>♣ Q3</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			<i>South me</i>		♠ 108		♥ AKQ96		♦ 10962		♣ Q3																					
<i>South me</i>																																
♠ 108																																
♥ AKQ96																																
♦ 10962																																
♣ Q3																																
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">W</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">N</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">E</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">S</td> <td style="width: 45%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2H</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bidding:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2S</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2NT</td> <td style="text-align: right;">HTML Bridge Hand Layout Creator</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3NT</td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td colspan="5" style="text-align: center; padding-top: 10px;">all pass</td> </tr> </table>				W	N	E	S			P	1S	P	2H		Bidding:	P	2S	P	2NT	HTML Bridge Hand Layout Creator		P	3NT					all pass				
	W	N	E	S																												
	P	1S	P	2H																												
Bidding:	P	2S	P	2NT	HTML Bridge Hand Layout Creator																											
	P	3NT																														
	all pass																															

Squeezes. If you are reading this but are not a serious player, you might think that this is too much, too complicated, too serious to read further.

Before you switch off, please wait just one minute while I tell you that at least 3 people played a Squeeze last Friday afternoon. They might not have known it at the time, I didn't, but believe me, it happens all the time.

Books on squeezes, articles on great hands made on a squeeze, if you have ever seen them, all discuss how the declarer made a difficult game, or small slam, and sometimes a grand slam.

But that is not what happens at your normal club. We are playing match points. A declarer only has to make one more trick than everyone else to get a top score. It doesn't matter if its 3NT making 5, when every else only made 4. It's still a top score.

Let's look at hand 20 on Friday 6th March. 16 points opposite 11, no 8 card fit in either Major, a reasonable auction would get you playing 3NT from South. West would lead a Diamond, and whatever is played from dummy, East wins with the singleton Ace. They now switch to a Heart, and South wins and plays the 10 of Spades. The finesse loses, and another Heart is played.

Count your tricks. 4 spades, 3 hearts, 3 clubs, that is 10 tricks, and is more than you expected. When dummy first went down.

Now most players would run their long suit, Spades, hoping for a bad discard from East or West.

This means that after the last Spade is played, 8 tricks have been played, (5 Spades, 1 Diamond, and 2 Hearts), and everyone has only 5 cards left. EVERONE EXCEPT EAST, WHO HAS STILL TO PLAY. They have to discard from 4 Clubs and the J and 10 of Hearts. Whichever suit they discard, the next 5 tricks will be declarers.

3 declarers made 11 tricks for 660, and 89% of the match points.

And I am now going to apologize to the East player who discarded a Club, when I said to her that she should have kept 4 clubs as she could see 4 of them in the dummy. She was Squeezed! Of course I didn't know that, for goodness sake, I'm 80 on Monday.

I have only played 3 squeezes in my life when I knew what I was doing. The first one in 1968, against Norma and Jim Borin of Australia, and it took me 2 cigarettes before I played the first card from dummy!