

**FRIDAY JUNE 26**

**SQUEEZES  
COMBINING YOUR CHANCES**

A)

	♥Q
	♦AQ
♥K	
♦??	
	♠A
	♦xx

Hand A is a positional squeeze on your left hand opponent. If you know he has the heart King then there is no reason to take the diamond finesse. On the spade Ace he must hold the heart King, so discard the heart Queen and hope the diamond kings drops under the Ace.

B)

	♥x
	♦AQ
♥??	
♦??	
	♠A
	♥Q
	♦x

Hand B is a squeeze on either opponent. As long as the same opponent has the heart King and the diamond King they will have to unguard one or the other. This squeeze works on either opponent because your threats are in both hands.

C)

♥Q  
♦A2

♥K  
♦Kx

♦Qx  
♣K

♠A  
♦x  
♣Q

Here is the double squeeze. When the spade Ace is cashed, West must discard a diamond or the heart Queen will take the last trick. South discards the heart Queen now and it is East's turn to be forced to discard a diamond or South's club Queen will take the next trick. North now takes the last two tricks with the diamond Ace and deuce.

A double squeeze needs three threats, 1 in each hand against each opponent and a third threat with an entry that acts against both opponents.

**Board 1**    ♠ K J 8  
 North Deals ♥ A Q J 9 4  
 None Vul    ♦ 10 6  
                  ♣ 8 6 2

♠ 10 9		♠ 6 5 3
♥ K 7 6 3		♥ 5 2
♦ K 5 4		♦ 9 8 7 3 2
♣ K Q 9 5		♣ A J 10

♠ A Q 7 4 2  
 ♥ 10 8  
 ♦ A Q J  
 ♣ 7 4 3

West    North East South

Pass    Pass 1 ♠

Pass    2 ♣<sup>1</sup>    Pass 4 ♠

All pass

1. Drury, a limit raise of spades by a passed hand

4 ♠ by South

Lead: ♣ K

North bids 2C as a passed hand to show a limit raise of spades. He might instead bid 3H as a jump fit in spades and hearts. In either case South with a sound minimum bids game.

After three rounds of clubs ending in the East hand, a switch to diamonds gives South an initial guess. Does he take the diamond finesse?

Since South must take the heart finesse, he should refuse the diamond finesse. Only when Kxxxx of hearts is in the West hand will it have been necessary to take the diamond finesse. After the diamond Ace, South should draw two rounds of spades with the King and Queen. Then take the heart finesse and repeat it when it wins. Now carefully ruff a low heart with the spade Ace. Finally draw trumps with the spade Jack and cash the heart Ace and the fifth heart for two diamond pitches.

**Board 2** ♠ A 9 5 4  
 East Deals ♥ A J 5 4  
 N-S Vul ♦ 7 5  
 ♣ A 5 3

♠ 3 2		♠ J 10
♥ 9 6 3		♥ K 10 8
♦ K 8 4 2		♦ J 10 9 6 3
♣ Q J 7 6		♣ K 10 8

♠ K Q 8 7 6  
 ♥ Q 7 2  
 ♦ A Q  
 ♣ 9 4 2

West North East South

Pass 1 ♠

Pass 2 NT<sup>1</sup> Pass 4 ♠<sup>2</sup>

All pass

1. jacoby 2nt showing a forcing raise
2. minimum hand with no shortness

Lead: ♣ Q

South has 9 sure tricks: 5 spades, 2 hearts, 1 diamond and 1 club. South has 4 possible losers: 2 clubs, 1 diamond and 1 heart. If the heart King is doubleton in West's hand or the diamond King is in East's hand we have 10 tricks. However neither is likely in one of my hands. Can we do better?

One last possibility is finding hearts 3-3. However if we lose a heart finesse to East a diamond shift will make us guess between finding the King on sides (50%) and hearts 3-3 (33%). We can create an avoidance play by leading the first heart from dummy toward our Queen. Any time hearts are 3-3 or East has doubleton K we will be able to pitch a diamond on the long heart. If Hearts turn out to be Kxxx in one of the defender's hands we will fall back on the diamond finesse.

On defense, when East wins the heart King, he should lead a low club to his partner's Jack. He can then win the third club and switch to a diamond, putting declarer to an immediate guess.

**Board 3**      ♠ 4  
 South Deals ♥ K 9 6 2  
 E-W Vul      ♦ A K J 8 2  
                  ♣ 10 5 4

♠ Q 10 9 8 7		N		♠ A 6 3 2
♥ Q 10 8	W		E	♥ J 7 3
♦ 7 5 4				♦ Q 10
♣ K 7		S		♣ 8 6 3 2

♠ K J 5  
 ♥ A 5 4  
 ♦ 9 6 3  
 ♣ A Q J 9

West North East      South  
                                  1 NT  
 Pass 2 ♣      Pass      2 ♦  
 Pass 3 NT      All pass  
 3 NT by South  
 Lead: ♠ 10

After a normal stayman auction, South plays 3NT. After a spade to the Ace and a low spade return to the Jack and Queen, a third spade clears the suit. South has 6 top tricks. He needs three more tricks from diamonds or clubs. If he loses a trick in either suit the defense will cash enough tricks to set him. Is there anything better than guessing which finesse to take?

South can combine his chances by playing for the drop in one suit and then finessing in the other. Since a doubleton diamond Queen is more likely than a stiff Club King, South should cash two diamonds and then if the Queen does not fall, he can take the club finesse.

Bonus question: Can the defense beat 3NT on best declarer play? How about East dropping the diamond Queen under the Ace. A non-psychic declarer will come to his hand in hearts to hook the diamond 9. At which point the defense will gladly collect their 4 spades and 1 diamond.

**Board 4**      ♠ J 10 3  
 West Deals    ♥ Q 9 7 4  
 Both Vul      ♦ A J 9 8 3  
                  ♣ 6

♠ 7				♠ 8 4 2
♥ A K 10 8 3		N		♥ J 6 2
♦ 10 7 2	W		E	♦ Q 4
♣ J 10 4 2		S		♣ 9 8 7 5 3

♠ A K Q 9 6 5  
 ♥ 5  
 ♦ K 6 5  
 ♣ A K Q

*West North East South*

Pass Pass Pass 2 ♣  
 Pass 2 ♦ Pass 2 ♠  
 Pass 4 ♣<sup>1</sup> Pass 4 NT<sup>2</sup>  
 Pass 5 ♦<sup>3</sup> Pass 6 ♠  
 Pass Pass Pass

1. splinter
2. roman keycard blackwood
3. 1 keycard

Lead: ♥ A

South has a very strong hand and should open with a strong 2 bid, either 2S or 2C if playing weak two bids. After 2S, North needs to show his strength and trump support and a splinter bid showing club shortness is ideal. South has lots of wasted values with the AKQ of clubs but he might be able to pitch North's diamond on his clubs and ruff a club. So he bids keycard and declares 6 Spades.

After the heart Ace wins the first trick, South should assume West has the heart King because if he did not a heart continuation would be normal.

On seeing dummy South discovers that his hope of ruffing a diamond is not going to happen. However he is at worst on a diamond hook. However an additional chance is to hope the heart King will come down in 3 rounds. Therefore South should win the club shift, play a spade to the Ten, ruff a heart. Spade to the Jack and ruff a heart. Now run all your trumps. The ending is 1 spade in your hand and Kxx of diamonds. Dummy has the heart Queen and AJx of diamonds. Cash the last trump and pitch the heart. Then King of diamonds and diamond to the Ace. There is no reason to take the diamond finesse since West's last card is the heart King.

