

A four-suit squeeze



By Allen Schwenk, Portage MI

Squeezes usually threaten to win an extra trick in either of two suits. Occasionally, there is a threat in three suits. I have never seen a squeeze with threats in all four suits — until now.

♠ A K Q 3 2
♥ A Q 4 3
♦ 4 3 2
♣ K

♠ J 9 4
♥ K 6 5 2
♦ A K
♣ A Q 3 2

North-South, holding all the aces and kings, bid to 7NT.

The ♦Q is led to declarer's ace. Observe that declarer has 12 top tricks, with a threat for the 13th in each suit. In fact, there are 13 tricks available against every possible distribution and every defense! The lead of a spade to dummy's ace reveals the unfortunate spade break:

♠ A K Q 3 2
♥ A Q 4 3
♦ 4 3 2
♣ K

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

South cashes the ♣K (dropping the 3) and the ♥A and ♥Q (dropping the 5 and 6 to be cute). Had the hearts split, declarer would be home free. If West were also guarding hearts, there is a straightforward heart-spade squeeze for the 13th trick.

In this scenario, East is guarding the hearts. On the ♥Q, West is forced to give up his guard in one of the minors in order to protect spades. Declarer reenters his hand with the ♦K and cashes the ♣A and the ♣Q. Dummy discards the ♠3 and the ♥3. Next South cashes the ♠J and plays a spade to the queen. When the ♠K is led, this is the position:

♠ 10 8		♠ —
♥ —		♥ J 10
♦ ?	N	♦ ?
♣ ?	W E	♣ ?
	S	
		♠ —
		♥ K 2
		♦ —
		♣ 2

If East discards a heart, South will win the last two tricks with the ♥K and ♥2. So East must discard his last minor card. Declarer parts with his ♥2. West plays a spade.

Earlier, West chose to retain his guard in clubs or diamonds, while East has been forced to abandon both minors. South needs to have watched the discards closely. If all the diamonds have been played, dummy's ♦2 wins trick 12. If the clubs have been abandoned, South wins the last trick with the ♣2.

There you have it. West has been squeezed in spades and both minors, and East has been squeezed in hearts and both minors. If South wishes, he can arrange for the trick produced by the squeeze to be won by one of the four deuces. The defenders can determine only which deuce! □

2003 Masterpoint Race leaders

Youth (under 20)

1. Justin Lall, San Antonio TX	413
2. Samantha Nystrom, Burnaby BC	324
3. John Kranyak, New York NY	319
4. Brad Campbell, Smyrna GA	259
5. Jeremy Fournier, Knoxville TN	223
6. Jared Fournier, Knoxville TN	220
7. Jason Chiu, Cambridge MA	193
8. Matt Meckstroth, Gainesville FL	165

Juniors (under 26)

1. Gavin Wolpert, Thornhill ON	847
2. Joe Grue, New York NY	695
3. Leo LaSota, College Park MD	632
4. John Hurd, Charleston SC	616
5. Kent Mignocchi, Bronx NY	522
6. Ian Boyd, Calgary AB	423
7. Justin Lall, San Antonio TX	413
8. Jacob Morgan, Madison WI	366

Sectional

(points won at sectional tournaments)

1. Susanne McLaughlin, Charleston SC	302
2. Mark McLaughlin, Charleston SC	302
3. Allen Kane, Pueblo West CO	285
4. Wayne Hollingsworth, Irmo SC	280
5. Richard Brown, Easley SC	275
6. Justin Lall, San Antonio TX	262
7. Kenneth Stuckey, Arvada CO	261
8. Michael Flanagan, Scottsdale AZ	233

Online

1. Renate Hansen, Austria	160
2. Marty Hoover, Pasadena TX	145
3. Judith Ortiz, San Antonio TX	136
4. Margaret Ladochy, Toronto ON	134
5. Virginia Gunter, Arvada CO	106
6. David Maidman, New York NY	104
7. Stanislaw Rostkowski, Pasadena TX	102
8. Warren Garrett, Arvada CO	101

Seniors (points won at Senior events)

1. Arnie Fisher, Clementon NJ	260
2. John Sutherlin, Dallas TX	183
3. Fred Hamilton, Las Vegas NV	173
4. Zeke Jabbour, Boca Raton FL	172
5. Richard Hewitt, New York NY	162
6. Genevieve Hewitt, New York NY	162
7. John Mohan, Mexico	131
8. Dennis Dawson, Santa Fe NM	131

Richmond Trophy (Canada)

1. Ken Gee, Regina SK	1153
2. Gavin Wolpert, Thornhill ON	847
3. Martin Caley, Montreal QC	747
4. Cameron Doner, Richmond BC	678
5. George Mittelman, Toronto ON	562
6. Barry Harper, Regina SK	515
7. Peter Clark, Ottawa ON	512
8. William Ge, Vancouver BC	460

See pages 23 and 58 for more Masterpoint Race leaders.