

Jim's Lessons Week 3 #4 Squeeze (rectifying the count)

Board 12

West Deals ♠ Q 9 7
 ♥ A 4 3 2
 N-S Vul ♦ K 4 3
 ♣ K Q 3

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



♠ K 8
 ♥ K Q 9
 ♦ A Q J 2
 ♣ A 7 6 5

♠ 5 2
 ♥ J 10 8 6
 ♦ 6 5
 ♣ J 10 9 8 4

Source: Partly taken from website below
<https://www.bridgehands.com>

West opened 2S but after South ends in 6 NT, West leads the 10♦. Declarer counts 10 quick tricks and 1 spade trick that can be developed.

If declarer is not careful he will not make his contract.

To pull off a squeeze there are several things that must happen.

NS 6N; NS 6♥; NS 6♦; NS 4♣; NS 2♠;
 Par +1440

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
2 ♠	Dbl	Pass	4 NT
Pass	6 NT	All pass	
6 NT by South			

1. There must be at least 2 threat cards. One in the declarer's hand and one in the dummy's hand.

2. There must be entries for the threat cards.

3. At some point neither defender can protect against both suits. Declarer is expecting East may have both long hearts and clubs as West has indicated having 6 spades.

4. The declarer must be within one trick of the number of tricks he wants to make.

To accomplish part 4, sometimes the declarer must do something called "**rectifying the count**". Often the defenders take some tricks and rectify the count for the declarer. Other times the declarer must "lose" 1 or more tricks in order to rectify the count.

The only safe way to rectify the count on this hand is to give up a spade. Declarer needs to lose a spade (without jeopardizing the contract. This means playing the king of spades in the South hand. Now if West fails to take the ace, (not rectifying the count) declarer can lead up to the queen and win 2 spade tricks in spades and not need the squeeze.

After winning the diamond lead, South plays the SK. West pretty much has to win his ace and that means the declarer has accomplished his goal of "rectifying the count". Declarer then wins any return by West. Declarer must remember to cash the ♠ Q before running other suits in order to actually squeeze East. Declarer must also take all 4 diamond tricks discarding a spade or club. Now he must cash the 2 high clubs in the North hand and play to the South hand. The 4th club will be the threat card in the South hand. The 4th heart the threat card in the North hand.

Failure to rectify the count would have led to a failed contract.