

April 2017

With nothing better to do I decide to kibitz a Dutch championship match that is showing on vugraph on BBO, when this hand comes up.

**Bidding**

**Dealer South**  
**N/S vulnerable**

<b>South</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>E</b>
♠ Q9763	1S	3C(1)	4C(2)	pass
♥ AK105	4NT	pass	5H(3)	pass
♦ K	6S	all pass		
♣ AKJ				

- (1) Weak jump overcall
- (2) Cue bid agreeing Spades
- (3) Two key cards

West leads the ♦A and dummy goes down.

**North**

♠ AK42  
♥ Q4  
♦ J853  
♣ 652

**South**

♠ Q9763  
♥ AK105  
♦ K  
♣ AKJ

Well, I can't explain the 4 Club bid either but it has helped propel them into the right spot. West follows up his lead with the ♦7 on which Declarer plays the 8 covered by the 9 from East. You ruff this – what card do you play next and why?

### Initial Analysis

If spades break 2-2 then you will come to an easy 12 tricks. If spades break 4-0 then this contract is hopeless so really you only need to give some thought to a 3-1 break and part of that thinking is where you want to be when you get the bad news? The simple answer to that question is you want to be in dummy because you have more options as to how you continue play if you are over there rather than stuck in your hand. So you cash the ♠Q at trick 3 everyone following, then play a small spade up to the king. Not surprisingly West discards a club on this trick. Plan your play.

Time to reconstruct the missing hands and the weak jump overcall, designed to hamper your bidding, is instead now working in your favour. We know that West started life with at least 6 clubs, exactly 1 spade and at least 2 diamonds. Unless he started with 5 or more diamonds headed by the AQ (extremely unlikely), then it must be safe to continue to ruff out the diamonds. To do this successfully we must be able to return to dummy once with the ♥Q to play the last diamond and a second time (a heart ruff) to draw the remaining trump. This will only fail if East started with 2 hearts but as we know that West started with at most 4 hearts then this is impossible. So off we go. Diamond ruff, heart to the queen, diamond ruff, cash ace of hearts then ruff a heart in dummy, draw the last trump and claim. This by the way is called a dummy reversal as we are using the long trumps in our hand to ruff out dummy's losers then using the shorter trump holding in dummy to draw trumps. However the more artistic of you out there may have spotted an alternative successful line of play. We know that West is sitting with the ♣Q and East holds the ♦Q so if we time our end game correctly neither of them can guard the hearts.

So at trick 5 draw the outstanding trump, ruff a diamond, cash the ♣A and ♣K then return to dummy with the ♥Q.

Here is the position

		North	
		♠ 4	
		♥ 4	
		♦ J	
		♣ 6	
West	East		
♠ -	♠ -		
♥ ???	♥ ???		
♦ -	♦ Q		
♣ Q	♣ -		
		South	
		♠ -	
		♥ AK10	
		♦ -	
		♣ J	

When you play the last trump in dummy East must let go of a heart, you will ditch your ♣J and now West must let go of a heart. For those of you who care this particular play is called a simultaneous double squeeze as both opponents are squeezed on the same trick. I just think it's cool.

## Conclusion

Here is the full hand

		North		
		♠ AK42		
		♥ Q4		
		♦ J853		
		♣ 652		
West		East		
♠ 10		♠ J85		
♥ J98		♥ 7632		
♦ A76		♦ Q10942		
♣ Q109874		♣ 3		
		South		
		♠ Q9763		
		♥ AK105		
		♦ K		
		♣ AKJ		

You may be wondering which option the Dutch South took? Did he go for the scientific approach and try the dummy reversal or the more artistic route where he ended up executing a double squeeze? He actually went for neither, preferring to play for the drop in hearts which only goes to show that to succeed in this game you don't have to be good, just lucky.