

October 2018

If you haven't yet read the August article please do so now then return here. Yes, this is the same hand but I have had more time to think about it and have come to realize that on discovering that East started with a singleton club the hand is cold for 13 tricks no matter how the remaining cards are distributed. In August's article East discarded a heart on the second club and this allowed Declarer to obtain a partial count in that suit and go on to make his contract by a series of discovery plays.

Let's begin again.

You arrive in 7NT as South and receive the lead of the ♣4.

North

♠ K983
♥ K5432
♦ -
♣ AKQ6

South

♠ AQ5
♥ AJ
♦ AKQJ9
♣ 1082

Plan your play.

Initial Analysis

You have 12 top tricks. If the spades break you have 13 tricks, if the heart finesse works you have 13 tricks, if the ♦10 drops you have 13 tricks and if the clubs break, or the Jack drops doubleton or if West has led away from the Jack and you play small from dummy, you have 13 tricks. I can't recall ever seeing a hand where every suit presented an opportunity of making one additional trick, far less one where the additional trick means you will make your grand!

You eschew ducking the club in dummy, instead you take this trick with the Ace and cash the King on which East discards. Diamonds or spades might break kindly offering up the 13th trick but now that you know West is guarding the clubs you no longer care.

Play a small spade to the Queen then run off your four top diamonds discarding hearts from dummy and coming down to this position

North

♠ K98
♥ K
♦ -
♣ Q6

South

♠ A5
♥ AJ
♦ 9
♣ 10

At this point one of 3 things has happened

- 1) The 10♦ has dropped in which case you can claim the rest of the tricks
- 2) East has shown out of diamonds
- 3) West has shown out of diamonds

In the second case above there is a simple squeeze on West in the minor suits.
Play a small heart to the King, cash the King and Ace of spades leaving you in hand in this position

North

♠ 9
♥ -
♦ -
♣ Q6

West

♠ -
♥ -
♦ 10
♣ J9

East

Immaterial

South

♠ -
♥ A
♦ 9
♣ 10

On the play of the ♥A West is squeezed

In the third scenario where East holds the ♦10

North

♠ K98
♥ K
♦ -
♣ Q6

South

♠ A5
♥ AJ
♦ 9
♣ 10

We again cross to dummy with the ♥K, cash the ♣Q then return to hand with the ♠A to arrive at this position

North

♠ K9
♥ -
♦ -
♣ 6

West

♠ ?
♥ ?
♦ -
♣ J

East

♠ ?
♥ ?
♦ 10
♣ -

South

♠ 5
♥ A
♦ 9
♣ -

Now on the play of the ♥A we execute a simultaneous double squeeze. West must hold on to his master club whilst East must hold on to his master diamond. Neither can keep a guard in spades.

The full hand

North

♠ K983
♥ K5432
♦ -
♣ AKQ6

West

♠ J6
♥ 10
♦ 108732
♣ J9543

East

♠ 10742
♥ Q9876
♦ 654
♣ 7

South

♠ AQ5
♥ AJ
♦ AKQJ9
♣ 1082

Final Analysis

A rather beautiful hand and well worth a second look.