

## Learning Points – What’s a Little Double Squeeze Among Friends?

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LEVEL: Advanced

**N Deals**

♠ AKxx

Lorna

**EW Vul**

♥ xx

*Spot Cards  
Approximate*

♦ A8xx

♣ Q8x

Monday April 20, 2009. Pasteboards Social Club game, Buca di Beppos. Thanks to Joe and Amy Fisher and Lorna Davis for this little gem.

♠		N	♠
♥			♥
♦	W 9	E	♦
♣		S	♣

Lorna and I decided to practice before playing in the Flying Pig Regional Knockout Events next week. We play a 2/1 card and found Pasteboards a great time to check out all those little agreements that we might never discuss. Besides we like the people we play with and the food is pretty good too! (Thanks Potter).

♠ Qx

♥ AK10

♦ QJ10x

♣ J7xx

Steve

### Bidding

North’s 1♦ opening is typical of 2/1 and many standard systems. A 1♦ opening bid typically promises 4 cards - the only time we open 1♦ with 3 cards would be when holding a 4=4=3=2 hand. (Some open 1♦ on 3 when holding ♦AKx & ♣xxx. Be sure to get on the same page with your partner).

**North** 1♦    **East** Pass    **South** 3N    **West** Pass Out

West Leads ♠x

### The Play

Declarer can count 6 tricks off the top with 2 or 3 more available in ♦. Declarer would like the defense to open ♣ first to guarantee a trick. West led a small ♠ signaling length in the suit. Declarer let this ride around to the ♠Q (East contributed the ♠10). The ♦Q quickly lost to the offside ♦K and East cashed the ♣K and switched to a small ♥. South won with the ♥A. Declarer now counts 8 tricks. East’s play in ♣ makes forcing a trick in that suit likely but no guarantee. No worries. Let’s run the free suit (♦) and see what develops. South led a ♣ toward the ♣Q, won by East with the ♣A. East returned the ♣10, won by south with the ♣J. Here’s the position after trick 9→

**N Deals**

♠ AKx

Lorna

**None Vul**

♥ x

*Position after  
trick 9*

♦

♣

♠ Jxx		N	♠ x
♥ J			♥ Qx
♦ -	W 9	E	♦ -
♣ -		S	♣ 9

♠ x

♥ K10

♦

♣ 7

Steve

Now the stage was set. With the loser count down to one, and with ♠ guarded by west and ♣ by East, ♥ might or might not be guarded by both. The double squeeze (if it exists and it does) and a ♥ - ♣ simple squeeze against East will play the same from this point forward.

South led the small spade to dummy’s ♠A and K. On the lead of the ♠K, East discarded a ♥ and South discarded the lone ♣, its work done. A small ♥ to the ♥K brought the ♥Q from East and the ♥J from West. The ♥10 scored the overtrick for a top board.

### Post Mortem

You be the judge. Once East cashes a ♣, declarer’s focus shifts to overticks. If East plays either a 2<sup>nd</sup> ♠ or a 2<sup>nd</sup> ♥ when in the 2<sup>nd</sup> time, communications will become very difficult for the double squeeze.

### Learning Pointers:

- 1) When the evidence builds to a squeeze, DO IT! At no cost, you might just earn a top.
- 2) When defending, eliminate transportation in either the Right (♠) or Both (♥) suit instead of developing tricks in the Left Suit (♣) – you might just break up that double squeeze before declarer sees it coming.