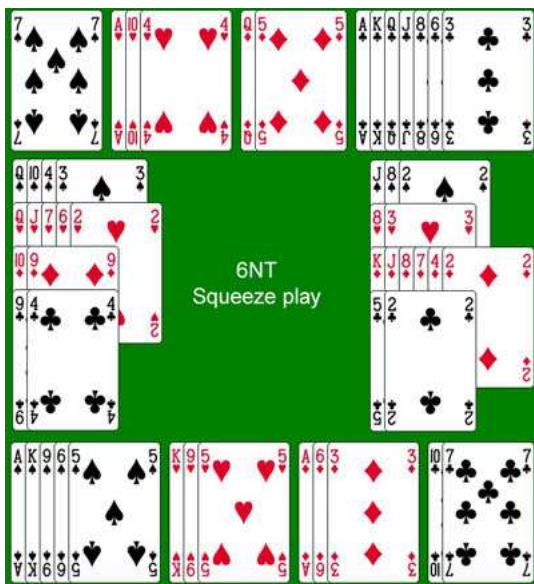


A squeeze play is a tactic, often occurring late in the hand, in which the play of a card (the squeeze card) forces an opponent to discard a winner or the guard of a potential winner. For example in the following hand:



The auction proceeded as shown below with North (partner)

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | 1♣ | Pass | 1♠ |
| Pass | 3♣ | Pass | 4NT |
| Pass | 5♣ | Pass | 6NT |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | |

opening 1C. I responded with 1S and partner bid 3C. I bid 4NT because I sensed that slam was on.

Partner responded with 5C

showing 3 key cards so I bid 6NT.

| | West | North | East | South |
|----|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1 | 6♥ | 4♥ | 8♥ | *K♥ |
| 2 | 9♦ | 5♦ | 7♦ | *A♦ |
| 3 | 4♣ | 3♣ | 5♣ | *10♣ |
| 4 | 9♣ | *A♣ | 2♣ | 7♣ |
| 5 | 4♠ | *K♣ | 4♦ | 3♦ |
| 6 | 2♥ | *Q♣ | 3♥ | 6♦ |
| 7 | 7♥ | *J♣ | 2♦ | 5♠ |
| 8 | 10♦ | *8♣ | 8♦ | 5♥ |
| 9 | 3♠ | *6♣ | J♦ | 6♠ |
| 10 | J♥ | *A♥ | 2♠ | 9♥ |
| 11 | 10♠ | 7♠ | 8♠ | *A♠ |
| 12 | Q♠ | 10♥ | J♠ | *K♠ |
| 13 | Q♥ | Q♦ | K♦ | *9♠ |

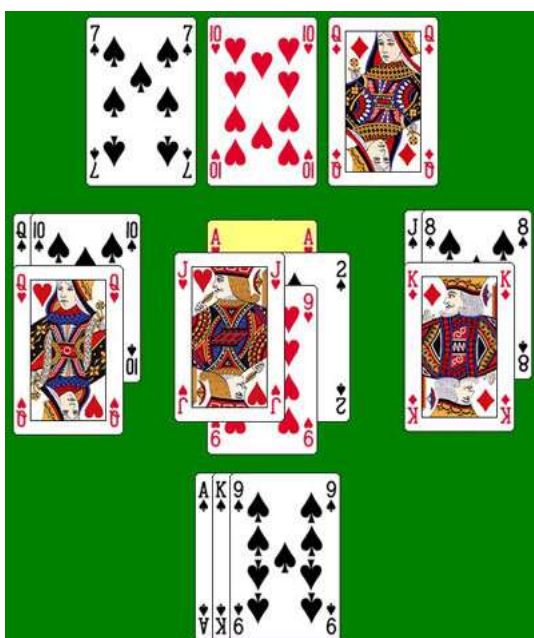
The opened with West leading a small Heart which I let run to my King.

I cashed the Ace of diamonds in preparation for a squeeze. The QD is the squeeze card forcing East to hang on to the King.

I then played the 10C and a small Club across to dummy's Ace.

Running the Clubs down brought me to a critical point at trick 10.

When cashing the Ace of Hearts, I didn't see either the QH or HD.



The hands stood as follows and I was hoping that the squeeze was in.

One defender has to keep the KD to prevent the QD from taking a trick and the other defender has to keep the QH to prevent the 10H from making a trick.

This meant that each defender could ONLY HAVE 2 SPADES.

Playing the AS, KS and then the small Spade allowed me to make 7.

Happy Bridging, Bal