

Rare and Well Done

TO THE EDITOR:

It is highly unusual for declarer to suffer a triple squeeze. I had never seen such a position until I encountered this deal:

South dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A 10 9 4
♥ 10 6
♦ Q 9 2
♣ J 6 4 3

WEST
♠ J
♥ A K 8 3
♦ A J 10 7 3
♣ 8 7 5

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

SOUTH
♠ K 8 7
♥ Q 9 4 2
♦ K 8 6 5
♣ K Q

NORTH
♠ 10 9
♥ 10 6
♦ —
♣ J

WEST
♠ —
♥ A K 8
♦ 7 3
♣ —

EAST
♠ Q 6
♥ J 7
♦ —
♣ A

SOUTH
♠ K
♥ Q 9 4
♦ 8
♣ —

When East cashed the club ace, South did well to discard a heart to hold the loss to down one.

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SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

The club-eight lead was ducked to South's queen. After a spade to the ace and a spade to the eight (heart from West), declarer's club king was allowed to hold. From the known spade layout and the inferred roughly-equal divisions of hearts and clubs, South guessed East's diamond shortness and played the king, hoping to spear East's singleton jack or ten. West won with the ace and continued with the jack. Declarer won and played the diamond nine to West, who led his last club to East's ten. These cards remained:

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