

Lindsay's Challenge - August 2021 Newsletter

Challenge 15

	<i>North</i>	
	♠ A 9	
	♥ J 5 4 3	
	♦ A Q 6 5 3	
	♣ Q 2	
<i>West</i>		<i>East</i>
♠ Q 7 6		♠ 10 4 3 2
♥ 9 6		♥ 7
♦ 8 7 4		♦ K J 9
♣ 10 9 8 7 6		♣ K J 5 4 3
	<i>South</i>	
	♠ K J 8 5	
	♥ A K Q 10 8 2	
	♦ 10 2	
	♣ A	

How can South make 7 Hearts after West leads the 6 of Spades?

The 6 of spades is covered by the 9 and then the 10 is captured by the Jack. This gives South 4 spade tricks. The 6 hearts and 4 spades are taken so each player now has 3 cards left. South has discarded diamonds from dummy, so dummy now has the Ace of diamonds and two clubs while South has two diamonds and the ace of clubs. East has the difficult choice of which of the Kings to bare. South can now make the remaining tricks. This is the classic criss-cross squeeze.

What is the criss-cross squeeze?

A criss-cross squeeze is a variation of the simple squeeze when Declarer squeezes a single opponent while holding threat cards in both hand and dummy. Declarer has a diamond menace in hand and a club menace in dummy. The criss-cross squeeze is so named because a club discard by East allows declarer to cash the club Ace and cross to dummy via the Ace of diamonds to cash the club Queen. If East elects to pitch a diamond instead, then South crosses to dummy's diamond Ace and returns to hand with a club to play the diamond 10.