

**Board 27**  
South Deals  
None Vul

♠ J 2	♠ K 7	♠ 10 9 8 6 5 3
♥ 9 6 3	♥ K Q J 7 4	♥ A 8 2
♦ A K 10 5 4 3	♦ Q 9	♦ 8 7 2
♣ 5 4	♣ A Q 10 3	♣ K

	♠ A Q 4	
	♥ 10 5	
	♦ J 6	
	♣ J 9 8 7 6 2	

On Board 27, the lethal defense requires both calculation and imagination. To try your hand, take the West seat and cover the North and East hands.

You open a weak 2♦, North overcalls 2♥ and partner raises you to 4♦. North reopens with a double, and South bids 4♥, ending the auction.

Partner leads the ♠T. Declarer plays 3 rounds of spades and pitches the ♦9 when you ruff with the ♥9. The remaining cards are shown in the second diagram. How do you defend?

**Board 27**  
South Deals  
None Vul

♠	♠ K Q J 7 4	♠ 9 8 6
♥ 6 3	♥ Q	♥ A 8 2
♦ A K 10 5 4 3	♦ A Q 10 3	♦ 8 7 2
♣ 5 4	♣	♣ K

	♠	
	♥ 10 5	
	♦ J 6	
	♣ J 9 8 7 6 2	

Declarer's failure to draw trumps indicates that partner has either the ♥A or ♥K. Declarer's shape is either 2-5-1-5 or 2-5-2-4. (North is unlikely to make a reopening double with 2-6-1-4.) To cater to the latter possibility, resist the temptation to cash even a single

round of diamonds and return a club immediately. Then, when partner wins their trump trick, they can cross over to you in diamonds and receive a club ruff for down one.

Do not overlook the good defense by West of ruffing the third spade high. If West had ruffed low, declarer could overruff cheaply and change tacks to drawing trumps, eventually dropping the ♠K when it is revealed that West has both diamond honors.

<b>Board 11</b>		♠ 9 7									
South Deals	♥ 8 5 2										
None Vul	♦ A K 9										
	♣ J 9 6 5 2										
♠ K 5 3 2	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A Q 10
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥ A 6	♥ K Q 10 9 7										
♦ Q J 6 4	♦ 7 5 3										
♣ K Q 4		♣ 10 7									
	♠ J 8 6 4										
	♥ J 4 3										
	♦ 10 8 2										
	♣ A 8 3										

On Board 11, West opens 1NT, and after a transfer auction ends up as declarer in 3NT. To try your hand as declarer, cover up the North-South hands.

North leads the ♣5. Dummy plays the ♣T (in case North has led from AJxxx), and South wins the ♣A and returns the ♣8. Both defenders follow to three rounds of hearts as West discards a diamond. The remaining cards are shown in the second diagram.

<b>Board 11</b>		♠ 9 7									
South Deals	♥										
None Vul	♦ A K 9										
	♣ J 9 6										
♠ K 5 3 2	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ A Q 10
		N									
W			E								
		S									
♥	♥ 10 9										
♦ Q J 6	♦ 7 5 3										
♣ Q		♣									
	♠ J 8 6 4										
	♥										
	♦ 10 8 2										
	♣ 3										

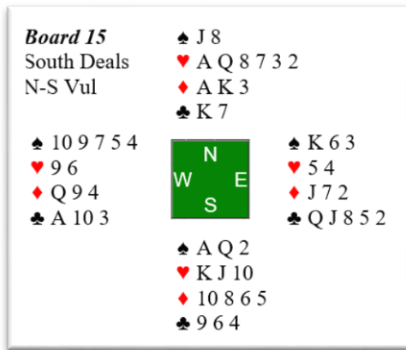
We can always hope that the spades split, or that a defender will kindly unguard the suit on the run of the hearts. But perhaps there are other chances?

An interesting play is to immediately lead a diamond from dummy. It might seem like this puts the second overtrick at serious risk when the spades *do* split. However, consider the pattern of the North hand. If the spades split 3-3, North is either 3-3-2-5 or 3-3-1-6, which makes it extremely unlikely that North holds both the ♦A and the ♦K. South, having passed in first seat, cannot hold both the ♦A and the ♦K. And if the diamond honors are split, it will be rather difficult for North to play back the same suit declarer is playing. (It's certainly not impossible, though; in fact the diamond discard on the third heart is rather telling.)

What does the diamond play achieve, though? We currently have 10 winners and had lost 1 trick. By losing another trick, we rectify the count for a squeeze against South when South holds the long spades.

There is another detail. Which diamond should you play from your hand? You should play the ♦J. If North wins with the ♦K, they might think you have AJT in diamonds, and subsequently decide to knock out your club stopper "to dissuade you from taking a second diamond finesse".

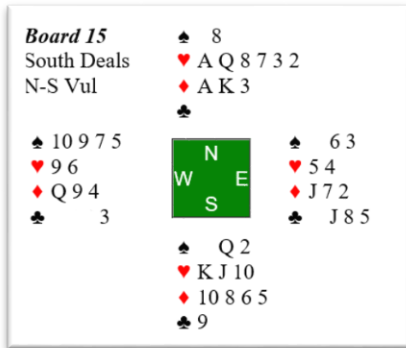
Finally, note that you do not have the entries to benefit easily from the ♠J dropping doubleton.



On Board 15, North opens 1♥, and, after a 2♣ Drury auction, ends up as declarer in 4♥. To try your hand as declarer, cover up the East-West hands.

East leads the ♣Q. West takes the ♣A and returns the ♣T. What now?

You should lead the ♠J immediately and hope East doesn't cover. This puts maximum pressure on East by providing them the least amount of information possible. However, East passes the test and covers. The remaining cards are shown in the second diagram. What next?



You have 11 winners and had lost 1 trick—time to think squeeze play. Readers of Love's seminal book *Bridge Squeezes Complete* might recognize the position as a Type L Unrestricted Compound Squeeze.

(Briefly, the ♣9 is a threat against and behind East, and the ♠2 and ♦3 are threats against both defenders.)

The diamond threat is alone in one hand, and it is accompanied by 2 winners in its suit, the ♦A and ♦K, which provides declarer with maximum flexibility, hence the term Unrestricted.)

Even if you haven't gotten around to reading Love's book, running off winners is a good idea. It so happens that on this (Unrestricted) hand all the trumps can be played with impunity. Eventually, the 4-card end position in the diagrams below is reached. Then, cash the winner(s) in the suit West is guarding to squeeze East in the other 2 suits. At worst, it's a 50% guess, but in practice it is virtually 100% by keeping close track of the defender's discards.

(Note that at trick 2, West made a subtle-yet-fatal defensive error by returning the ♣T, thus establishing the ♣9 as a threat against East. With the ♣T, West would be able to guard the club threat *from behind*; hence there would be no squeeze.)

