

6♠ - A subtle hint

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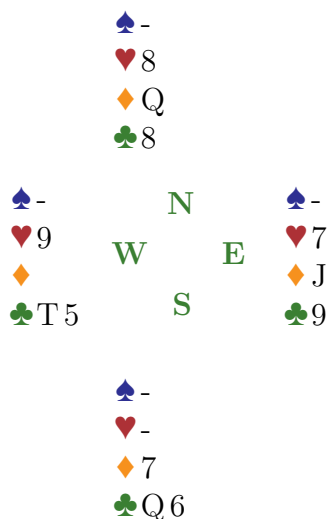
After an auction I'd rather not waste your time on, East leads ♣2 against 6♠.

1. Find a double-dummy line of play to "win" the contract if the defence sleeps
2. Find a defensive play to beat the contract
3. Decide if it's possible to find it looking at just East's cards

♠AK7		
♥KT84		
♦AQT		
♣A87		
♠Q64	N	♠T5
♥A932	W	♥J765
♦94	E	♦J8653
♣KT53	S	♣92
♠J9832		
♥Q		
♦K72		
♣QJ64		

Assuming we lose no spade tricks, there is still a club loser to cater for. A round suit squeeze against West would be possible, if he held the ♥J. We start by cashing three spades and play a low heart towards the ♥Q. West wins, yawns, and returns a diamond. That is a good start.

We win the ♦A and cash the ♥K. Then we play the ♥T and watch East carefully. He correctly covers with the Jack and we ruff. Great! Now, the heart threat is the ♥9. If W holds it, he is soon to be squeezed just as we planned! We cash the remaining spades, and the ♦K, reaching the following position:



Upon leading the ♦7 to the ♦Q, West must let go of one of the guards.

This is called a Guard Transfer Play - it enables us to seemingly waste a high card in order for a lower guard to arise in a squeeze suit. If the other opponent holds it, the squeeze is going to operate.

If East does not cover with the ♥J, nor does he show any behavior suggesting the possession of the honor, you should ruff the ♥T and proceed to play for West to have ♥AJ9x.

This enticing squeeze is far from working though, as the defence possesses an even more beautiful resource. East, having seen the declarer pop in with the ♣J knows, that his partner possesses the ♣T. Therefore, when declarer plays a low heart, he should signal for a club return with the ♥5! This cuts the dummy entries necessary for the squeeze and the contract has no more play.