

Pseudo Squeeze Play

Last Revised April 21, 2016

by Warren Watson

Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club

<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaDeclarerPlay/PseudoSqueezePlay.pdf>

The pseudo squeeze is the most basic squeeze and people can implement it without knowing how to implement a real squeeze. All one does is cash all the winners one can afford to run and hope the opponents get their signals crossed and discard the wrong cards.

Everybody does this at 3NT. One cashes one's long suit and then pursue other suits.

Declarer will leave a problem suit, a suit with a guess or a sure loser, to the very end and either the discards will be a valuable card or show who is guarding a valuable card.

Declarer will also try to keep a spot card winner if he has a choice between an honour winner and a touching spot card winner.

Declarer will also try not to give any true clues from what he discards from dummy. I often say "Partner, discard what you want from dummy."

Match 3 Pseudo Squeeze

2016.04.22.VernonSectional

The 3rd match was against an undefeated flight A team to that point (like us to that point). We came first with one loss and 107 victory points and they were fourth overall with 94 victory points. The first board of our 7 board match was the following.

Board 22

I was West and the following cards were dealt. This was the talk before my lesson Monday April 25

East Dealer	East West Vulnerable							
♠9 ♥KQ7654 ♦9 ♣QJ1092								
♠103	♥---	♦AQJ106542	♣K84		♠K7652	♥1032	♦K87	♣75
♠AQJ84		♥AJ98		♦3		♣A63		
N	E	S	W					
	P	1♠	5♦					
Dbl	All Pass							

Holding North's hand, I would have bid 5♥ over 5♦. The double is tempting because of the vulnerability, but the vulnerability was also known by West.

The ♠9 was led against 5♦ doubled. South won the ♠Jack and I dropped the ten smoothly.

She won ♠Jack and cashed ♣Ace and exited a club. The ♣6 was a mistake. North played the ♣Queen under the ♣Ace and so South knows I have the ♣King and have no more club losers.

What are the alternatives?

Trump:

A trump lead will be a futile attempt to cut down Club ruffs.

If West needs three club ruffs, he must have 5 clubs and the suit is breaking 3-3. Furthermore, West did not bid like his hand was two-suited, but he did bid like he had at most a one-loser trump suit (in light of the King in dummy).

What do you call an eight card suit?
Trump!

Spades:

Cashing the ♠Ace and giving partner a ruff is also futile. West bid 5♦ vulnerable and partner shows up with K87. There should be no question that West must have all the other top diamonds and will ruff a third spade high if he does not ruff the ♠Ace.

If the ♠Ace is a winner, it will not go anywhere. If the ♠Ace is cashed and declarer ruffs. If he has a stiff heart, it will go away on the ♠King.

Heart:

She should try the ♥Ace.

On trick one, if declarer discards the 3, South should realize with 109 partner would play the 10 then the 9 not the 9 then the 10. Therefore south could exit a small spade and keep Ace Queen over the King in dummy. This could be risky if partner has no trump.

When the diamonds are run, North should pitch all the clubs because I would ruff a club if I had one. North should pitch KH showing the HQ and then all the clubs and then the heart spot cards 7 to the 4.

If North had a second spade this should be discarded along the way. South can safely discard all her clubs and all her hearts keeping one spade

It came down to the 13th card. Defenders should know after a couple of diamonds what his last two cards will be. North made the mistake of keeping the ♣Jack as her 13th card and had already pitched her hearts. From dummy I alternated between pitching spades and hearts. Dummy's 13th card was the ♥Ten. Dummy's 12th card was the ♠King. South realized she was guarding both the ♥10 in dummy and a

possible spade with the ♠ Ace and made the wrong guess and I made the contract for 5DWx= amounting to +750

Other table out teammates were in 4♥+1

+1200

15 imps and we won the match 15 to 3

If I went down 1-we win the match 8 to 3

This was a pseudo squeeze because South was guarding a card I could not get to, the ♥10. It is also not a true squeeze, even though the count was rectified, because North should guard Hearts and South can guard Spades. South did not realize that if North had another Spade, she would have discarded it almost right away. It is similar to 3NT when you know you are not getting the lead, you can pitch partner's suit.