The Elements of Squeeze Play

By Chris Dixon

Constituents of a Squeeze

- 1 A Squeeze is a card play device in which an opponent is forced to release one of two (or more) controls enabling you to gain a trick, an entry or to avoid a loser.
- 2 You must have at least two threats against the same opponent
- 3 One of the threats must be accompanied by an entry either in the same suit (a linked threat) or in the suit of the other threat
- 4 You must have no surplus losers outside the threat suits
- 5 The Squeeze Card (SQC) is the last winner to be cashed outside the threat suits and is the trick which causes the squeeze to take effect.

What you need to be able to do

- **1** Recognise Threats
- 2 Visualise Ending Patterns
- 3 Plan the play to reduce to the required ending pattern
- 4 Cash all winners in the threat suits in advance except those needed to provide entries.

Simple Squeeze Requirements

- 1. Two threats against the same opponent
- 2. At least one of the threats must be in the hand opposite the squeeze card
- 3. There must be an entry to that threat and that entry must be in one of the threat suits
- 4. You must have no losers left outside the threat suits

Threats

Unlinked Threat (UT)	A losing card in a suit	К	
Linked Threat (LT)	A threat accompanied by a linked winner	2	AJ
Doubly Linked Threat (DLT)	A threat accompanied by a linked winner in each hand	K 2	A 10 3
Split Threat (ST)	A linked winner opposite the threat	Q 2	A 3
Blocked Threat (BT)	An unlinked winner opposite the threat	Q 2	Α
Extended Threat (XT)	Any of the above with an additional unlinked winner accompanying the threat	2	A K J
Invisible Threat	Threats against entries or losers		

The UNLINKED THREAT

- 1 An unlinked threat is a card of losing rank in which one opponent holds all cards higher in that suit.
- 2 You do not have a winner either accompanying the threat or in the hand opposite.
- 3 It is often necessary to play off surplus winners or losers in the threat suit to isolate the threat against a single opponent.
- 4 The simplest example is a King against the opponent holding the Ace

The LINKED THREAT

- 1 A linked threat is a threat accompanied by a winner with a link card opposite to provide an entry.
- 2 A threat must be linked when it is opposite the squeeze card and the other threat is an unlinked threat
- 3 Simplest example is AQ opposite a singleton against an opponent holding a guarded King.

The DOUBLY LINKED THREAT

- 1 A doubly linked threat is a threat accompanied by a winner with a link card in both hands.
- 2 This type of threat may be needed in cases in which you have an unlinked threat opposite the squeeze card.
- 3 Simplest example is A J x opposite a K x against an opponent holding a twice guarded Queen.

The SPLIT THREAT

- 1 A split threat is a threat accompanied by a link to a winner in the opposite hand. The winner must be accompanied by a small card to provide the link back to the threat.
- 2 This type of threat is needed in cases in which your other threat is an unlinked threat opposite the squeeze card and you have no doubly linked threat available
- 2 Simplest example is A x opposite a Q x against an opponent holding a twice guarded King.

The BLOCKED THREAT

- 1 A blocked threat is a threat accompanied by a link to a winner in the opposite hand. The winner is not accompanied by a small card.
- 2 This type of threat is needed in cases in which your other threat is also a blocked threat in the other hand.
- 3 Simplest example is Q x opposite a A against an opponent holding a twice guarded King.
- 4 A squeeze with two mirrored blocked threats is called a Criss-Cross Squeeze

W P P P	N 2♦ 4♥			ne defence take the first 3 en exit with a trump.
		♥ ♦	Both Vul Q 8 K J 9 6 3 2 A K 7 5 3	
			Board 1 Dealer South	 ★ ♦
		♥ ♦	A 7 3 A Q 10 J 6 5 3 K 8 2	

S 1♥

2♥

			★ K 5 4 3
			♥ J73
			10862
			♣ 32
٠			★
•			Board 2
•			Dealer South Both Vul
*			
			▲ A72
			♥ AQ
			KQJ943
			♣ A K
W	Ν	Ε	South plays in 6NT
Ρ	2♦	Р	West leads 10♥
Р	4♦	Р	
Ρ	5♣	Р	
Р	Р	Ρ	

S 2♣

3♦

4NT 6NT?

 AQ72 1053 982 J43 Board 3 Dealer South Both Vul K54 A742 AK5 972 			
 982 J43 A Board 3 Dealer South Both Vul K 54 A 742 A K 5 		🛧 AQ72	
<pre>\$\$ J43</pre> \$\$ J43 \$\$ Jacobia 1 a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a a		♥ 1053	
 Board 3 Dealer South Both Vul K 5 4 A 7 4 2 A K 5 		♦ 982	
 Board 3 Dealer South Both Vul K 5 4 A 7 4 2 A K 5 		♣ J43	
 A 7 4 2 A K 5 	 	Dealer South	
A K 5		★ K 5 4	
		♥ A742	
◆ 972		♦ A K 5	
		♣ 972	
W N F South plays in 1NT			

S	W	Ν	Е
1NT	Ρ	Ρ	Р

South plays in 1NT West leads 10♣ and the defence cash 4 club tricks. You discard a diamond from both hands and West then switches to the J♣.

			♠	A K 5 4	
			¥	К З 2	
			•	КЈ8	
			*	K Q 2	
٠					
•				Board 4	•
•				Dealer South Both Vul	•
*					*
				J 8 2	
			¥	A 10 4	
			•	Q 10 9 3 2	
			*	A 7	
W	Ν	Ε		South plays in 6NT	
Р	6NT	Р			continues with the 104
				after winning the	4.♦

S 1NT

W N E I V N E I P K Q 10 6 2 K Q J 9 10 3 K Q J 9 10 3 South plays in 3NT West leads 8+ taken by East who returns	P P	2 P	• P P		the 5 ≜	
<pre> KQ1062 KQJ9 IO3 IO3 KQJS KQJS XOU XOU</pre>	W					
 KQ1062 KQJ9 103 Board 5 Dealer South Both Vul KQJ72 A8 						
 KQ1062 KQJ9 103 						
 KQ1062 KQJ9 103 				♦	K Q J 7 2	
 ♥ KQ1062 ♦ KQJ9 					Dealer South	 ♥ ♦
▲ A6				♥ ♦	K Q 10 6 2 K Q J 9	

S

1**≜** 3NT

				К 5 3	
			¥	A 9 3 2	
			•	9832	
			•	К 7	
٠					
¥				Board 6	•
•				Dealer South Both Vul	•
*					*
			٠	A Q J 8 6 2	
			¥	К 6	
			•	A K 5	
			*	A 3	
W	Ν	Ε		South plays in 7	
Р	2NT	Р		West leads Q&	
P P	4♥ 5♥	P P			

S 2♣

3**≜** 4NT

5NT

7≜?

Ρ

Ρ

6♣

Ρ

Ρ

		٠	K 5 3	
		¥	A 9 3 2	
		٠	9832	
		*	К 7	
	◆ 974			▲ 10
	🕈 Q 8 7		Board 6	♥ J 10 5 4
	◆ J 6		Dealer South Both Vul	◆ Q 10 7 4
	♣ Q J 9 6 5			♣ 10842
			A Q J 8 6 2	
		¥	К 6	
		٠	АК5	
		*	A 3	
W	/ N E		South plays in 7🛧	
Р	2NT P		West leads Q&	
P	4♥ P			
P	5♥ P			
P	6♣ P			
Ρ	Р Р			

S 2♣

3**≜** 4NT 5NT 7**≜**?

Pattern A - AUTOMATIC

HAND	DUMMY
SQC	
Unlinked Threat	
Link	Linked Threat
Α	2
K	
2	AJ

Pattern B - POSITIONAL

HAND	DUMMY
SQC	
	Unlinked Threat
Link	Linked Threat
Α	
2	K
2	AJ

Pattern C - AUTOMATIC

HAND	DUMMY
SQC	
	Unlinked Threat
Doubly Linked Threat	Link + Entry
Α	2
	K
A <u>10</u> 2	К 3

Pattern D - POSITIONAL

HAND	DUMMY
SQC	
Split Threat	Link + Entry
	Unlinked Threat
Α	
<u>Q</u> 2	A 3
	<u>K</u>

Pattern E – AUTOMATIC (CRISS-CROSS)

HAND	DUMMY
SQC	
Blocked Threat	Entry
Entry	Blocked Threat
Α	2
<u>Q</u> 2	Α
3	<u>Q</u> 2

	 ▲ AJ7 ♥ ◆ ◆ 	
 ▲ 6 ♥ ◆ 9 7 ◆ 	Board 7 Dealer South Both Vul	 ▲ K 5 ▼ J ◆ ▲
	 ▲ 4 ♥ 2 ♦ J ◆ * 	

	٠	A J 9 7	
	¥	974	
	٠	K 8 3	
	*	AKQ	
★ 8			
•		Board 7	•
•		Dealer South Both Vul	•
*			*
	٠	43	
	¥	A K Q 2	
	٠	A Q J 10	
	*	J 4 2	
W N E		South plays in 6NT	-
P 1 P		West leads 8	
P 4NT P			
P P P			

S 1♥

1NT 6NT

			☆	A J 7	
				K 8 3 A K	
 ▲ [8 ♥ [0 ♦ 	6 5]			Board 7 Dealer South Both Vul	 ★ K Q [10] ♥ J [10 8 3] ♦ [4]
			•	4 2 A Q J 10 J 4	
W P P P	N 1♠ 4NT P	E P P P		switches to the 4♣	t wins with the 10 ^s and taken by dummy's Q \$. rts but West discards a

S 1♥

1NT 6NT

		•	 ▲ AJ7 ♥ K83 ◆ 	
•	5] 5] 863]		Board 7 Dealer South Both Vul	 ★ K Q [10] ♥ J [10 8 3] ◆ ▲ [10 7 4]
		•	 ▲ 4 ♥ 2 ▲ A Q J 10 ▲ 	
W P	N 1♠	E P	South plays in 6N West leads 8 \$. Ea	NT ast wins with the 10♠ and

S	W	Ν	Е
17	Ρ	1♠	Р
1NT	Ρ	4NT	Ρ
6NT	Ρ	Р	Р

South plays in 6NT West leads 8[★]. East wins with the 10[★] and switches to the 4[★] taken by dummy's Q[★]. You play 3 top hearts but West discards a small club on the 3rd round.

				A J 9 7	
			¥	974	
			•	К 8 З	
			*	AKQ	
▲ 8	6				★ KQ 10 5 2
7 6	5			Board 7	♥ J 10 8 3
• 9	7652			Dealer South Both Vul	♦ 4
♣ 9	863				♣ 1075
			٠	4 3	
			¥	A K Q 2	
			•	A Q J 10	
				J 4 2	
			_		
W	Ν	Ε		South plays in 6NT	
P P	1 ≜ 4NT	P P		West leads 8♠	
P P	41N1 P	P			

S 1♥

1NT 6NT

	2 C1		 J7 974 K83 AKQ 	
3] ♠ ♥ ♦	2 0]		Board 7 Dealer South Both Vul	 ▲ Q [K 10] ◆ ◆ ◆
		•	A K Q 2 A Q J 10 J 4 2	
W P P P	N 1♠ 4NT P	E P P P	South plays in 6N West leads 8 A	T

S 1♥

1NT 6NT

		•	A 7 K 8 5 3 K 8 3 2	
		*	Q 8 6	
 ▲ ◆ ▲ 			Board 8 Dealer South Both Vul	 ▲ ● ▲ ▲
		*	Q 4 3 2 A Q A Q J 10	
		*	1042	
W	Ν	E	South plays in 3N	NT

S	W	Ν	Е
1♦	Р	1¥	Р
1NT	Ρ	3NT	Ρ
Р	Р		

South plays in 3NT West leads 3♣. East wins the J♣ and continues with Ace and a 3rd club. West cashes the 13th club and exits with the 2♥

				A 7	
			¥	K 8 5 3	
			٠	K 8 3 2	
			*	Q 8 6	
♠ K	10 6				▲ J985
🔶 J 🤆	972			Board 8	♥ 1064
• 9	4			Dealer South Both Vul	• 765
桊 K	953				♣ AJ7
				Q 4 3 2	
			¥	AQ	
			٠	A Q J 10	
			*	10 4 2	
W	Ν	Ε		South plays in 3NT	-
Ρ	1♥	Ρ		West leads 3♣. Ea	
Р	3NT	Ρ			h Ace and a 3 rd club.
Р				West cashes the 13 2♥	3 th club and exits with the

S 1♦

1NT

				97	
			¥	Q 6 2	
			٠	A 10 8 5 3	
			*	752	
•					
•				Board 9	•
•				Dealer South Both Vul	•
*					*
			٠	A K Q J 5 2	
			¥	10 5 4 3	
			٠	К 4	
			*	Α	
W	N	Е		South plays in 4	
X	Ρ	2♣			East ruffs the 3 rd heart
Ρ	4♠	Ρ		and leads the 3♣.	
Р					

S 1♠

3♠

			 ▲ ♦ ▲ 	A 10 8 5	
∳ ♥J ♦Q	9 6			Board 9 Dealer South Both Vul	 ▲ ♥ ↓ J 7 ▲ Q 9
			 ▲ ♦ ▲ 	2 10 K 4	
W X P P	N P 4∳	Е 2♣ Р		South plays in 4♠ West leads A,K♥. I and leads the 3♣.	East ruffs the 3 rd heart

S 1♠ 3♠

 ▲ 6 ♥ A K ♥ Q 9 ▲ K J 2 	6 2		 97 Q62 A10853 752 Board 9 Dealer South Both Vul AKQJ52 10543 K4 A 	 10843 97 J7 Q9853
W X P P	N P 4♠	Е 2♣ Р	South plays in 4♠ West leads A,K♥. and leads the 3♣.	East ruffs the 3 rd heart

S 1♠ 3♠

 ▲ Q 8 4 ▲ A J ★ K 10 6 3 ♣ J 9 3 2 ▲ A K 10 6 3 ♣ Board 10 Dealer South Both Vul ▲ A K 2 ★ K Q 10 9 6 ♥ Q 5 ★ A K 5 				
 K 10 6 3 J 9 3 2 J 9 3 2 Board 10 Dealer South Both Vul A K 2 A K 2 K Q 10 9 6 Q 5 A K 5 			Q 8 4	
 J932 <li< th=""><th></th><th>¥</th><th>AJ</th><th></th></li<>		¥	AJ	
 Board 10 Dealer South Both Vul A K 2 K Q 10 9 6 Q 5 A K 5 		٠	К 10 6 3	
 Board 10 Dealer South Both Vul A K 2 K Q 10 9 6 Q 5 A K 5 		*	J 9 3 2	
 Dealer South Both Vul A K 2 K Q 10 9 6 Q 5 Q 5 A K 5 	♠			*
 Both Vul Both Vul A K 2 A K 2 K Q 10 9 6 Q 5 Q 5 A K 5 	•			•
 ▲ A K 2 K Q 10 9 6 Q 5 A K 5 	•			•
 KQ1096 Q5 AK5 W N E P 4NT P P 6NT P South plays in 6NT West leads J ^A .	*			*
 Q 5 A K 5 W N E P 4NT P P 6NT P South plays in 6NT West leads J♠.			АК2	
 A K 5 W N E P 4NT P P 6NT P South plays in 6NT West leads J♠. 		¥	K Q 10 9 6	
 A K 5 W N E P 4NT P P 6NT P South plays in 6NT West leads J♠. 		٠	Q 5	
P4NTPWest leads J♠.P6NTP		*		
P4NTPWest leads J♠.P6NTP				
P 6NT P	W N E		South plays in 6NT	-
			West leads J♠.	
Ρ				
	Р			

S 2NT

6♥ P

♠ [J] ♥ [2]		* *	Q 8 J K 10 6 J 9 3 2 Board 10 Dealer South	 ▲ [6] ♥ [8]
◆ [A] ◆			Both Vul	 • [7] ◆
		* *	A 2 K Q 10 9 5 A K 5	
W P P P	N E 4NT P 6NT P		South plays in 6NT West leads J★. Wi and lead a diamon	n with the A, cross to A♥

S 2NT 6♥

		•	 Q 8 4 A J K 10 6 3 J 9 3 2
			 ▲ 9765 Board 10 Dealer South Both Vul ▲ 9765 ♥ 8 ◆ J974 ◆ Q1064
		•	 A K 2 K Q 10 9 6 Q 5 A K 5
W P P P	N 4NT 6NT	E P P	South plays in 6NT West leads J♠.

S 2NT

6♥

				0 (1)	
			•	9642	
			۷	Q 3	
			•	A 9 6 2	
			*	J 4 2	
	♦				♠
	¥			Board 11	•
	•			Dealer South Both Vul	•
	*				*
				10 5	
			¥	A K J 10 8 5	
			•	К 10 7	
			*	A 5	
N	N	N E		South plays in 4♥	
F)	1 ♠ F		West leads 10♣.	
F)	4♥ F			
F)				

S 1♥

3♥ P

				 ★ ★ 	9 A 9 6	
	∳ ♥ ∳ Q ∳ Q				Board 11 Dealer South Both Vul	 ▲ Q ▼ ◆ J 8 5 ▲
					8 K 10 7	
S 1♥ 3♥ P	W P P P	N 1♠ 4♥	E P P		South plays in 4 West leads 10♣.	

♠ A	J 3		♥ ♦	9 6 4 2 Q 3 A 9 6 2 J 4 2	★ KQ87
♥ 6 ♦ Q ♣ Q				Board 11 Dealer South Both Vul	 ♥ 97 ♦ J853 ♦ K87
			♥ ♦	10 5 A K J 10 8 5 K 10 7 A 5	
W P P P	N 1♠ 4♥	E P P		South plays in 4♥ West leads 10♣.	

S 1♥ 3♥

Ρ

	*	K 5 4 3	
	•	J 7 3	
	•	10862	
	*	32	
♠			
v 10		Board 12	•
•		Dealer South Both Vul	•
*		both va	*
	\$	A 7 2	
	¥	AQ	
	•	K Q J 9 4 3	
	*	АК	
W N	E	South plays in 6NT	-
P 2♦ P 4♦	P P	West leads 10♥	
P 5♣	P		
P P	P		

S 2♣

3♦

4NT 6NT?

				 ▲ ♦ ▲ 	K 5 4 J	
	 ▲ J 8 ♥ 8 ◆ ▲ 10 				Board 12 Dealer South Both Vul	 ▲ Q 10 9 ♥ K ◆ ▲
				 ▲ ♦ ▲ 	A 7 2 3	
S 2♣ 3♦ 4NT 6NT?	W P P P P	N 2↓ 4↓ 5♣ P	E P P P		South plays in 6N West leads 10♥	T

				K 5 4 3	
				J 7 3	
				10862	
				32	
	∳ 18				▲ Q 10 9 6
	♥ 1098			Board 12	♥ K6542
	♦ A 5			Dealer South Both Vul	◆ 7
	♣ 10 8 7 6	54			♣ QJ9
			٠	A 7 2	
			¥	AQ	
			٠	K Q J 9 4 3	
			*	АК	
_					_
V P	V N 2♦	E P		South plays in 6NT West leads 10♥	
P	— ·	-			
P	54	P P			
P	Р Р	Р			

S 2♣

3♦ 4NT 6NT?

				 ★ ★ ★ 	K 5 J 7	
	 ▲ J ♥ 98 ◆ ▲ 10 				Board 12 Dealer South Both Vul	 ▲ Q 10 ♥ K 6 ◆
				 ★ ★ ★ 	7 2 A 3	
S 2♣ 3♦ 4NT 6NT?	W P P P P	N 2↓ 4↓ 5♣ P	E P P P P		South plays in 6N West leads 10♥	ſ

				K 5 4 3	
				J 7 3	
				10862	
				32	
	∳]8				▲ Q 10 9 6
	Y 1098			Board 12	♥ K6542
	♦ A 5			Dealer South Both Vul	◆ 7
	♣ 10 8 7 6	54			♣ QJ9
			٠	A 7 2	
			¥	AQ	
			٠	K Q J 9 4 3	
			*	АК	
_					_
V P	V N 2♦	E P		South plays in 6NT West leads 10♥	
P	— ·	-			
P	54	P P			
P	Р Р	Р			

S 2♣

3♦ 4NT 6NT?

				♥ ◆	J 4 A 5 K 9 8 6 K 10 7 6 2	
	 ▲ ● ▲ ▲ 				Board 13 Dealer South Both Vul	 ★ ★ ★
				♥ ◆	A 6 J 8 2 A Q J 10 7 3 Q 5	
S 3• 3NT	W 1♠ P P	N P 3♠ P	E P P P		South plays in 6NT West leads K&	-

				٠	A 5 K 10 7 6	
	 ▲ 10 9 ♥ K Q ♦ ▲ A 				Board 13 Dealer South Both Vul	 ★ ★ ★
				٠	J 8 2 10 Q 5	
S 3+ 3NT	W 1♠ P P	N P 3♠ P	E P P P		South plays in 6NT West leads K. Yo and cash 5 rounds	u take the second spade

			۲	J 4	
			۲	A 5	
			٠	К986	
			*	К 10762	
♠ K	Q 10 9 7 3	5			♠ 852
🕈 К	Q 6			Board 13	v 10 9 7 4 3
♦ 4				Dealer South Both Vul	♦ 5 2
♣ A	83				♣ J94
				A 6	
			¥	J 8 2	
			٠	A Q J 10 7 3	
				Q 5	
				-	
W	Ν	Ε		South plays in 6N	Г
1♠	P	Р		West leads K	
Р	3♠	Ρ			

3♦ 3NT

	 ▲ A 5 4 ♥ J 8 4 3 ♦ K 9 7 4 ▲ A 9 	
 ★ ★ ★ 	Board 14 Dealer South Both Vul	 ★ ★ ★
	 ▲ K93 ♥ 7 ♦ AQJ1083 ♣ K75 	

S	W	Ν	Е
		1NT	2 ♣*
3♦	Ρ	4♦	Р
4NT	Ρ	5♣	Ρ
6♦	Ρ	Ρ	Ρ

South plays in 6♦ West leads A♥ followed by the 9♥

* = Majors

			▲ A 5 4	l.	
			♥ J84	3	
			♦ K97	4	
			♣ A 9		
٠	18				▲ Q 10 7 6 2
¥	A 9 6		Boar		🔻 K Q 10 5 2
•	5 2		Deal Both	er South Vul	♦ 6
*	J 10 8 6 4 2				♣ Q 3
			▲ K93	;	
			Y 7		
			♦ AQ	1083	
			& K75	6	
W	N 1NT	E 2♣		th plays in 6♦ st leads A♥	
Р	4	2∞ P	vve		
Ρ	5♣	Ρ			
Ρ	Р	Ρ			

3♦ 4NT

6♦

		۲	A 5 4	
		۲	J 8 4 3	
		٠	K 9 7 4	
		*	A 9	
∳ J 8				
🔻 A 9 6			Board 14	•
♦ 5 2			Dealer South Both Vul	•
📥 J 10 8 6	4 2			*
		¥		
		٠		
		*		
W N	Е Т 2.		South plays in 6♦ West leads A♥	
1N P 4♦	T 2♣ P		vvest leads A	
P 5♠				
P P	Р			

3♦ 4NT

6♦

	▲ 10		
	🖌 K J	9	
	♦ A I	КJ	
	♣ J7	2	
♠ QJ72			▲ 84
💙 Q 8 6 5 2	_	bard 15	▼ A
◆ 7		ealer South oth Vul	1098642
& K94			🛧 Q 10 6 5
	♠ Al	К 4	
	v 10	743	
	♦ Q !	5 3	
	▲ A 8		
	•		
W N E	S	outh plays in 3NT	
P 3NT P			t wins with the Ace and
Р		eads the 5♣	

S 1NT

Ρ