Board 22 North Deals N-S Vul

Matchpoint Play -- Problem **♠** A K 7 6 ♥ Q 6 ♦ Q 10 8 5 2 ♣ J 10 **♠** Q 3 ♥ A K J 7 4 2 ♦ J94 ♣ A K West North East South 1 💠 Pass 1 🛡 2 **♣**¹ Pass 1 Pass $3 \nabla^2$ Pass 2 💠 Pass Pass 4 V Pass³ Pass Pass 1. Artificial new minor forcing. 2. Forcing to game with at least six hearts.

- 3. Slam seems unlikely.

4 ♥ by South Lead: ♣4

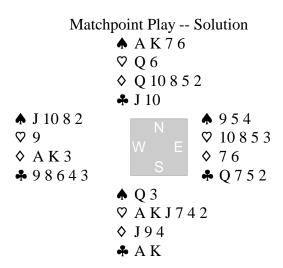
East covers dummy's card with the queen. Plan the play in a club pairs game. East has four trumps. What might you hope for?

Win the opening lead with the A, leaving both opponents in doubt as to who holds the king. This is important: this hand is about confusing the opponents.

Draw trumps in four rounds, pitching two diamonds from dummy.

Now lead the ♦ 4 diamond from hand, hoping that West started with ♦ K-7-6-3. Even a good player might throw the king under the singleton ace. West wins the king, but rats, no ace. Wait for it... West leads a spade to East's nine and our queen. Now what?

Board 22North Deals
N-S Vul



NS 5N; NS 4♥; NS 5♦; NS 3♠; Par +660: NS 3N+2 West North East South 1 💠 Pass 10 1 Pass 2 **♣**¹ Pass 2 💠 $3 \nabla^2$ Pass Pass Pass 4 V Pass Pass³

Pass

- 1. Artificial new minor forcing.
- 2. Forcing to game with at least six hearts.
- 3. Slam seems unlikely.

4 ♥ by South

Lead: ♣4

Losing the \diamond K has rectified the count for a possible spade-diamond squeeze. Play off the remaining two trumps and the \clubsuit K, discarding the last two diamonds from dummy. Dummy has \spadesuit A-K-7, while we hold \spadesuit 3 \diamond J-9. West cannot defend both spades and the \diamond A. If the \diamond J is not good, the spades will be.

After the play, West said she feared the \diamond A would get ruffed, so did not cash it. Of course, three rounds of diamonds at the get-go would have held us to 10 tricks. We would, of course, drop the \diamond J on the opening lead, to muddy the waters -- if West does not cash out, the count has been rectified, and our squeeze produces 12 tricks.

This is a crazy hand, because we did not need to fool West: if we can suss out the position, a strip-squeeze works with two losers -- against either opponent guarding both suits. Suppose we don't lead a diamond and just play off all six trumps, producing this position:

East or West: A J 10 8 2 A K

When we play the K (pitching a diamond from dummy), The busy opponent (West here) cannot pitch a spade and thus pitches a diamond honor. A diamond lead establishes our twelfth trick.