The simple squeeze

One afternoon, I sat down for lunch and picked up ♠AQJ43 ♡A ♢AQJ4 ♣AJ5 on BBO as West (with robot partner and opponents), and opened 2♣ in the first seat. The bidding proceeded:
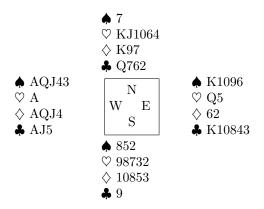
West	North	East	South
2♣	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣	Pass
5NT	Pass	6♣	Pass
6♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

North led the ♠7, and I had the following picture to consider:

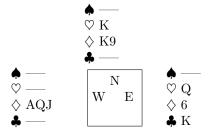|	
♠ AQJ43	♠ K1096
♡ A	♡ Q5
♢ AQJ4	♢ 62
♣ AJ5	♣ K10843

(W E)

After South followed with a spade to the first trick, there was nothing to do, as far as I could tell: one of the finesses had to come home, and I could ruff a diamond in dummy. A small point: since the club finesse can be taken through either opponent, the diamond finesse should be taken first, since it will determine the location of the ♢K, which might help locate the ♣Q. Of course, I wouldn't be telling you this story if that plan was successful: both the ♢K and ♣Q were with North, and I chose to finesse the ♣Q through South, so I was down 1.

Can declarer do anything else? Of course, I could have chosen to take the club finesse through North to make 6♠. Here was the full deal:

	♠ 7	
	♡ KJ1064	
	♢ K97	
	♣ Q762	
♠ AQJ43		♠ K1096
♡ A		♡ Q5
♢ AQJ4		♢ 62
♣ AJ5		♣ K10843
	♠ 852	
	♡ 98732	
	♢ 10853	
	♣ 9	

Pressing the GIB button, I was surprised to see that EW can make 7♠ on any lead! Let's see how that can be done double-dummy: as the title would suggest, it will be through a simple squeeze, against North in the red suits. Since we can see all the hands, we start by playing all our trumps and the ace of hearts, and then collect all the clubs, ending in dummy. Before the last club is played, this is the position (South's hand is irrelevant):

	♠ —	
	♡ K	
	♢ K9	
	♣ —	
♠ —		♠ —
♡ —		♡ Q
♢ AQJ		♢ 6
♣ —		♣ K

(W E)

When East plays the ♣K, West lets go the J♢, and North is squeezed. If he pitches the ♡K, our ♡Q is established; and if he pitches a diamond, the ♢A drops the ♢K and our ♢Q becomes the 13th trick.

Try your skills with this example:

♠ Q82	♠ AKJ10976
♡ A2	♡ 3
♢ AKQ8	♢ 32
♣ A542	♣ Q63

(W E)

You are West, and the contract is 7NT. North leads the ♡K. You will make the contract if the ♣K is singleton, or if some opponent has ♢J109 tripleton, both of which are highly unlikely. Can you see a way to improve your chances?