

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

DECLARER PLAY QUIZ - November 2015 - original - [Here](#)

By David Huggett

1.

	♠ Q 4 3 2	
	♥ J 9 2	
	♦ 7	
	♣ A Q 8 7 6	
♠ J 9 8 6 5		♠ K 7
♥ 10		♥ K Q 8 7 6 5
♦ K Q J 10 9 5		♦ 8 4 3
♣ 2		♣ 5 4
	♠ A 10	
	♥ A 4 3	
	♦ A 6 2	
	♣ K J 10 9 3	

You are declarer in 3NT after East opened with a weak 2♥. West leads ♦KQ-J, with East following and you win the third round. How do you plan the play?

It looks as though you have only eight tricks, but, in fact, the contract is assured as long as East has the king of spades and no more than three diamonds. You know from the bidding and the play so far that East has nine red cards and if he has no more diamonds left, he will be strip squeezed when you take five rounds of clubs. Most likely, he will come down to three hearts and two spades, but you just play the ace and another heart and he will be forced to lead away from his king of spades, giving you two tricks in that suit. If he discards a spade and two hearts, then you play the spade ace and drop his now singleton king.

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2.

	♠ K 6 5	
	♥ 9 4 3	
	♦ A K 8 6 4	
	♣ 5 3	
♠ 10 8		♠ Q J 9 3
♥ Q 10 8 5		♥ J 7 6
♦ J 10 3 2		♦ Q 9
♣ J 8 4		♣ Q 10 9 6
	♠ A 7 4 2	
	♥ A K 2	
	♦ 7 5	
	♣ A K 7 2	

You are declarer in 3NT and West leads the ♥5. How do you plan the play?

If you can believe the lead is fourth best, you know that the heart suit is breaking 4-3 because you can see the four, three and two and that means you have only two losers in that suit. As you need to find just one more trick, it might look as though you need to find either spades or clubs breaking evenly, but that thinking is a little superficial as you are almost bound to make three diamonds unless the suit breaks 5-1 or worse. After winning the heart lead, you cannot play diamonds from the top, because if the suit breaks 4-2, you will run out of entries to dummy. Of course, all you have to do is duck a diamond immediately and then play ace, king and another (if necessary) when you regain the lead. And you will have the ♠K in dummy as an entry.