

MrBRIDGE LIBRARY ARTICLE

Thanks to MrBridge and David Huggett

PLAY QUIZ - Dec 2016 - original - [Here](#)

1.

| | | |
|--------------|-----|------------|
| ♠ 7 6 5 | | |
| ♥ Q J 2 | | |
| ♦ A 9 8 6 2 | | |
| ♣ K 3 | | |
| ♠ A J 8 3 | | ♠ Q 10 9 |
| ♥ 10 9 8 5 4 | ◆ N | ♥ 7 3 |
| ♦ J 3 | W | ♦ Q 10 7 4 |
| ♣ 7 4 | E | ♣ J 9 6 5 |
| | S | |
| ♠ K 4 2 | | |
| ♥ A K 6 | | |
| ♦ K 5 | | |
| ♣ A Q 10 8 2 | | |

You are declarer in 3NT and West leads the ♥10. How do you plan the play?

The duplication in the heart suit is tedious, but with eight tricks on top the ninth shouldn't be too hard to find. However, you do have to be careful and think of the worst possible scenario. If you just play clubs from the top and find that you have to give East a trick before you have established your ninth, then a spade back through your king will lead to defeat if the hand is as shown. So play safe by playing the club king and then finessing the ten. You may lose an extra trick in the process but you will have guaranteed making the contract by guarding the king of spades.

2.

| | | |
|--------------|-----|-----------|
| ♠ K 10 7 5 | | |
| ♥ A 6 | | |
| ♦ K Q 7 | | |
| ♣ 10 9 6 3 | | |
| ♠ 8 2 | | ♠ 6 4 |
| ♥ K Q 10 9 3 | ◆ N | ♥ 8 7 5 2 |
| ♦ 10 6 5 | W | ♦ J 9 4 2 |
| ♣ Q 8 2 | E | ♣ 7 5 4 |
| | S | |
| ♠ A Q J 9 3 | | |
| ♥ J 4 | | |
| ♦ A 8 3 | | |
| ♣ A K J | | |

You are declarer in 6♣ and West leads the ♥K. How do you plan the play?

With a certain loser in hearts if the club finesse is wrong, it looks as though you are going to need the queen of clubs to be with East, when in fact you might even make an overtrick. But the odds are much better than evens in fact, because if you draw trumps and eliminate diamonds you can then exit with the jack of hearts. If West started with the king and queen of hearts, he will be forced to either lead a club up to your tenace or concede a ruff and discard. Only if East unkindly wins the heart exit will you need the club queen to be well placed.