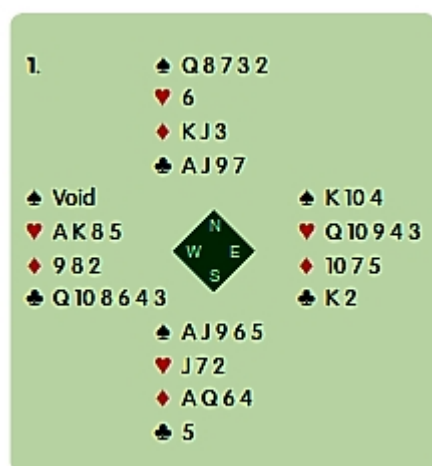


BRIDGE MAGAZINE

DECLARER PLAY QUIZ - August 2016 - original - [Here](#)

By David Huggett



You are declarer in 6♠ and West leads the ♥A and follows with a low club. How do you plan the play?

Clearly, you have to play the trump suit for no loser, but you mustn't let the excitement of being in a slam influence the need for clear thinking. It must be right to take a finesse in spades rather than play for a singleton king on your left, but you must not lead a low card from dummy in case East holds all the outstanding trumps. If you lead the queen and East covers, then a further finesse against the ten is marked. If you had led a low spade to the jack, then you would still have a spade loser if East started with all three missing ones.

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By David Huggett



You are declarer in 3NT and West leads the ♣7. How do you plan the play?

Although you have the required number of points for game, that duplication in the heart suit is very depressing. It also looks as though you need to find nine running tricks before the opposition find your spade weakness, so is there any hope? Indeed there is!

If that seven of clubs lead is actually fourth highest, then the Rule of Eleven would indicate that East has no club higher than the seven. So cross your fingers and play low from dummy at trick one and win the lead with the eight in hand.

Now play a club to the ten, return to hand and play a club to the queen and you will find you make three heart tricks, two diamonds and four clubs. So miracles do happen.