

Mr Bridge magazine  
Play quiz by David Huggett

July 2016 Board 3 original-[Here](#)

3.

	♠ 7 6 4	
	♥ Q 7 5	
	♦ 10 7 5	
	♣ K 9 6 4	
♠ 10 8		♠ Q J 9 3
♥ 8 3		♥ 10 9 6 4
♦ K Q J 8 3		♦ A 9 6 4
♣ 10 7 3 2		♣ 5
	♠ AK52	
	♥ AKJ2	
	♦ 2	
	♣ AQJ8	

You are declarer in 4♥ and West leads the ♦K followed by the ♦Q. How do you plan the play?

The contract is a good one, but you always have to be careful when playing in a 4-3 fit.

Suppose you trump the second diamond lead and aim to draw trumps in three rounds. That will be fine if the trumps do break evenly, but the chances are that they won't and now when you lose the lead - as you will when the opposition ruff a club - they will have at least three more diamonds to cash. As you can afford to lose two spade tricks, just discard one spade now and a second if the defenders play a third round of diamonds, aiming to ruff the fourth round, if necessary, in dummy.

Now you would have to be very unlucky in the red suits to be defeated.

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July 2016 Board No 4

4.

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

You are declarer in 3NT and West leads the ♥4. East plays the ♥10. How do you plan the play?

This is simply a case of counting your winners and being careful.

The heart lead has done you no harm and you only need to make four diamond tricks to ensure your contract and this you can do with 100% certainty. You have to be careful not to let East gain the lead who might switch meanly to a spade, causing you distress if West holds the ace in that suit.

So play the ace of diamonds by all means, but then cross to dummy and take a diamond finesse. If it loses you still have nine tricks and if it wins you will have gained an overtrick.

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