

## BRIDGE MAGAZINE

### DECLARER PLAY QUIZ - April 2017 - original - [Here](#)

By David Huggett

1.

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

You are declarer in 3NT after 1NT-3NT and West leads the ♥7. How do you plan the play?

The game doesn't look very promising but at least you have escaped a spade lead, when it would take a miracle to come to nine tricks. Maybe the heart lead doesn't look particularly nice either, but just think for a moment. After this straightforward auction, there is no reason to believe that West has not just led fourth highest and if that is the case, then the Rule of Eleven will indicate that East has no card in hearts higher than the seven. So play low from dummy and win with the nine. Then you can tease West by playing low hearts towards dummy. You will make three heart tricks and six tricks in the minors, or ten tricks if West switches to a spade.

2.

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

You are declarer in 5♣. West leads the ♠A and switches to a low diamond. How do you plan the play?

An initial diamond lead would have been more difficult, but as it happens, the contract is a certainty - unless you go fishing for the queen of hearts and guess wrong. Win the diamond switch and ruff a spade, enter dummy with a trump, ruff another spade and draw the last trump. Now cut loose by playing your diamond and you will find that whoever wins either has to give you a ruff and discard or open up the heart suit, thus finding the queen for you. In all, you will make two spade ruffs, three hearts, one diamond and five clubs.