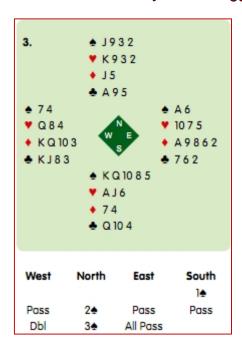
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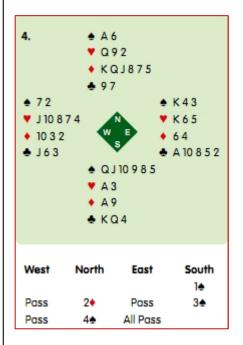
## DECLARER PLAY QUIZ - April 2017 - original - Here

## By David Huggett



Partner leads the ◆K. What is your plan?

You start by encouraging with the ◆9. What do you do after taking the ◆A at trick two? For two reasons you should prefer a club switch to a heart switch. The first is that a discard might be coming on the fourth heart. The second is that while a club cannot do worse than spare declarer a guess, a heart switch might blow a trick if partner has Q-x-x or if declarer has Q-8-x. Leading from the ♥10 with the ♥9 in view on your right is not safe at all. Leave the hearts well alone.



Partner leads the ♥J, covered by the ♥Q, ♥K and ♥A. Declarer leads the ♠Q, which your ♠K wins. What is your plan?

At teams or rubber bridge, you would lead a low club next trying to give declarer a guess. At matchpoints, this is highly risky because declarer surely holds the ◆A on the bidding. If your opponent plays the ♣K, whether from K-Q-x or from K-x or by guessing right from K-J-x, twelve tricks will presumably result.

You should cash the  $\triangle$ A and, unless partner encourages, revert to hearts. This probably saves any overtricks. Note that you play the  $\triangle$ A before the heart, lest declarer ruffs the heart or partner thinks you can ruff a heart.