

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

DECLARER PLAY QUIZ - November 2014 - original - [Here](#)

By David Huggett

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ AJ3 ♥ 62 ♦ AK962 ♣ K93	
WEST ♠ J1098 ♥ A974 ♦ 4 ♣ J982	November Deal 1	EAST ♠ 542 ♥ K1085 ♦ Q1087 ♣ Q10
	SOUTH ♠ KQ6 ♥ QJ3 ♦ J53 ♣ A764	

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

You have seven top tricks and the diamond suit will furnish two more, although you do have to be a little careful. It would be a mistake to cash the ace and king of diamonds because the suit might break 4-1. Instead, play off a top diamond (case the queen is singleton) and then play low to the jack. If East plays the queen, you have four tricks; while if East discards, you play the jack and later finesse against the ten. Either way, you are guaranteed to make your contract.

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ KJ3 ♥ 10975 ♦ A65 ♣ 642	
WEST ♠ 10875 ♥ 82 ♦ J1083 ♣ AQ5	Deal 2	EAST ♠ 9642 ♥ A3 ♦ 742 ♣ J1097
	SOUTH ♠ AQ ♥ KQJ64 ♦ KQ9 ♣ K83	

You are declarer in 4♥ and West leads the ♦J. How do you plan the play?

You can count ten tricks via three spades, four hearts and three diamonds, but you also have four potential losers in one heart and three clubs. If you try to draw trumps immediately, East might win and return the jack of clubs, resulting in three club losers.

First you must play three rounds of spades, overtaking the queen with the king in the process, discarding a club from hand, of course. Only now will it be safe to play on trumps.