

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

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

By David Huggett

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| Dealer : Vul : | NORTH ♠ QJ8 ♥ 54 ♦ KQ764 ♣ 754 | |
| WEST ♠ K842 ♥ K1082 ♦ 83 ♣ J92 | Deal 3 | EAST ♠ A7 ♥ J97 ♦ J1092 ♣ Q1063 |
| | SOUTH ♠ 10953 ♥ AQ63 ♦ A5 ♣ AK5 | |

You are declarer in 3NT and West leads the ♥2. East plays the ♥J. How do you plan the play?

The heart lead has done you no harm at all, giving you seven easy tricks and it looks, on the surface, as though you should play on diamonds, hoping for an even break in that suit. However, if they do not break evenly you are in danger of losing two spades, two hearts and the diamond you have established for them. Instead, check that the opponents are playing fourth best leads, in which case you can afford to play on spades. You are guaranteed two tricks in that suit and cannot lose more than two heart tricks.

With two spades in the bag, two hearts and two clubs, you only need the top three diamonds for the contract.

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| Dealer : Vul : | NORTH ♠ 765 ♥ KJ106 ♦ A2 ♣ KQJ5 | |
| WEST ♠ AKJ3 ♥ 7 ♦ J1094 ♣ 10643 | Deal 4 | EAST ♠ 984 ♥ Q54 ♦ Q9763 ♣ 87 |
| | SOUTH ♠ Q102 ♥ A9832 ♦ K5 ♣ A92 | |

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

You are declarer in 4♥. West leads the ♠K and switches to the ♦J. How do you plan the play? Once again, you can count the ten tricks you need for the contract because you must be able to make four hearts, two diamonds and four clubs. You are also in danger of losing three spades and a trump if you lose the trump trick to East, who will presumably return a spade. Playing off the ace and the king of hearts will work if East has the guarded queen and at least three clubs because you will be able to engineer a discard, but sometimes East will be short in clubs. Instead play the king of trumps and then run the jack. It may lose to a doubleton queen in the West hand, causing you to lose a trick you might not have lost otherwise, but you will have guaranteed making the contract. |