

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

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

By David Huggett

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| Dealer : Vul : | NORTH ♠ 753 ♥ 9754 ♦ K53 ♣ K86 | |
| WEST ♠ QJ1098 ♥ KJ1062 ♦ Void ♣ QJ3 | Deal 3 | EAST ♠ 84 ♥ A8 ♦ J9762 ♣ 10942 |
| | SOUTH ♠ AK2 ♥ Q3 ♦ AQ1084 ♣ A75 | |

You are declarer in 3NT after West has shown length in both majors. West leads the ♠Q. How do you plan the play?

There is no doubt you are lucky to have escaped a heart lead and, as long as you can make five diamond tricks, you will succeed in your contract. It may look 'natural' to play off the ace of diamonds first and then low to the king. In this way, you can cope with East holding four diamonds to the jack. But what if East has all five diamonds? Of course, what you should do is play a low diamond to the king first. If West follows, then play low back to the ace to reveal the distribution but if West is void you will be able to pick up all five diamonds by taking two finesses, after re-entering dummy with the club king to take the second finesse.

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| Dealer : Vul : | NORTH ♠ 432 ♥ J53 ♦ AK62 ♣ 764 | |
| WEST ♠ 105 ♥ AQ89 ♦ J84 ♣ Q1085 | Deal 4 | EAST ♠ 96 ♥ 8764 ♦ Q105 ♣ KJ32 |
| | SOUTH ♠ AKQJ87 ♥ K10 ♦ 973 ♣ A9 | |

You are declarer in 4♣ and West leads the ♣5. East plays the ♣K. How do you plan the play?

It might look tempting to draw trumps and enter dummy with a diamond in order to lead hearts, hoping to guess correctly. But suppose you guess incorrectly and the defence plays another diamond. With your only entry to dummy now gone, you will lose two hearts, one diamond and a club. Of course, you are guaranteed a heart trick by force so simply draw trumps and play the king of hearts. Later, the lead of the ten will set up the jack in dummy for a diamond discard.