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

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By David Huggett

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ A3 ♥ K75 ♦ 9864 ♣ KJ93	
WEST ♠ 1072 ♥ J83 ♦ QJ1075 ♣ A8	Deal 1	EAST ♠ QJ964 ♥ Q1092 ♦ K3 ♣ 42
	SOUTH ♠ K85 ♥ A64 ♦ A2 ♣ Q10875	

You are declarer in 3NT and West leads the ♦Q. East follows with the ♦3. How do you plan the play?

I hope you didn't duck that opening lead. With four certain tricks in clubs, you will make the contract as long as you don't lose four diamonds and the ace of clubs, but you will lose four diamonds only if the suit breaks 5-2. If that is the case, East - who is the hand likely to be short in the suit - must have K-x and could not afford to unblock the king for fear of setting up another diamond winner in dummy.

If you are on autopilot and duck trick one, West will lead a low diamond at trick two and will have enough winners to defeat you when he comes in with the ace of clubs.

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ 6542 ♥ Q9 ♦ AQ1096 ♣ K3	
WEST ♠ QJ1093 ♥ A64 ♦ 53 ♣ Q104	Deal 2	EAST ♠ 87 ♥ 8632 ♦ K74 ♣ J985
	SOUTH ♠ AK ♥ KJ107 ♦ J82 ♣ A872	

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

If the diamond finesse works you have nine easy tricks, but what if it doesn't? Suppose you take the diamond finesse at trick two, which loses to East who returns a spade. Now, you need a heart trick to fulfil your contract, but if West holds the ace of that suit and three more spades, you will be defeated. Instead, knock out the ace of hearts first. Whoever wins will doubtless return a spade, but now you take the diamond finesse into the hand which is likely to be out of spades. If he does have another spade, it doesn't matter because you are losing only two spades, a diamond and a heart.