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

By David Huggett

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ KJ754 ♥ KJ3 ♦ AQ9 ♣ K2	
WEST ♠ 93 ♥ 87542 ♦ 107 ♣ QJ106	Board 1	EAST ♠ 6 ♥ Q1096 ♦ KJ63 ♣ 8754
	SOUTH ♠ AQ1082 ♥ A ♦ 8542 ♣ A93	

You are declarer in 6♣ and West leads the ♣Q. How do you plan the play?

On the surface, it looks as though there might be two diamond losers, but the reality is that the contract is 100% guaranteed once East follows to the first trick. So draw trumps, eliminate clubs by ruffing the low club in dummy and return to hand with the ace of hearts. Now lead a diamond and just cover whatever card West happens to play. Doubtless, East will win, but he will have no safe return. A diamond back is into the remaining tenace in dummy and the same is true for a heart return. And, of course, if East returns a club, he will be giving you a ruff and discard.

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ AK6 ♥ 74 ♦ J1043 ♣ AQ106	
WEST ♠ QJ9 ♥ QJ1096 ♦ K87 ♣ 82	Board 2	EAST ♠ 108432 ♥ 853 ♦ 65 ♣ K43
	SOUTH ♠ 75 ♥ AK2 ♦ AQ92 ♣ J975	

You are declarer in 3NT after West has overcalled your 1♦ opening with 1♥. West leads the ♥Q. How do you plan the play?

If the club finesse is right, you have at least eleven tricks but what if it isn't? Then you will need to make another diamond and the danger is that, by this time, West might have enough tricks in hearts to defeat you.

However, West's only possible entry is in diamonds and therefore it is this suit you must attack first. But you have to be careful. Win the opening lead by all means, but you cannot afford to cross to dummy with a spade in order to take the diamond finesse in case it loses and the defenders play on spades.

Instead, play the ace of diamonds from hand and continue until the king wins.

Now if West wins and continues hearts, you duck, win the next round and then take the club finesse in complete safety.