

MrBRIDGE LIBRARY ARTICLESE

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

By David Huggett

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ K4 ♥ 76 ♦ 865 ♣ A109754	
WEST ♠ J10985 ♥ Q5 ♦ Q4 ♣ J862	Board 3	EAST ♠ Q73 ♥ KJ1084 ♦ K1093 ♣ 3
	SOUTH ♠ A62 ♥ A932 ♦ AJ72 ♣ KQ	

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

It is easy to give scant attention to a contract that looks simple to play, but it is at times like these that you have to be most vigilant. With four tricks 'on top' outside of the club suit, you need to make only five club tricks to fulfil your contract, but the chance of a 4-1 break is a real one. So, instead of winning the spade in hand and cashing both clubs prior to entering dummy, cash the king and overtake the queen with the ace and continue playing the suit until the jack has been played. And, of course, you will have retained the king of spades in dummy as an entry. It is true you might make a trick fewer than other less gifted players but you will have succeeded in guaranteeing your contract.

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ 7542 ♥ AK5 ♦ Q84 ♣ Q75	
WEST ♠ A3 ♥ Q1083 ♦ 10732 ♣ 1082	Board 4	EAST ♠ K6 ♥ J97 ♦ J985 ♣ A643
	SOUTH ♠ QJ1098 ♥ 642 ♦ AK ♣ KJ9	

You are declarer in 4♠ and West leads the ♥3. How do you plan the play?

It is easy to count ten winners via three spades, two hearts, three diamonds and two clubs but, equally, there are four losers if you are not careful -two spades, one heart and one club.

The lead looks as though hearts are breaking 4-3, so your first priority must be to rid yourself of that losing heart. If you play on trumps immediately, you will be a tempo behind so cash the top two diamonds first. Now you can lead a trump and if they win and lead another heart, you win and throw your losing heart from hand on the queen of diamonds in dummy. Only after that can you play another trump, when you will lose just two trumps and a club.