

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

DECLARER PLAY QUIZ - Feb 2015 - original - [Here](#)

By David Huggett

Deal 3

3.	♠ KJ ♥ A764 ♦ A942 ♣ AJ3		♠ 109864 ♥ Q1085 ♦ Void ♣ 8752												
	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>♠ A732</td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td>♠ 109864</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ KJ92</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td>♥ Q1085</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ Q1076</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td>♦ Void</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ 9</td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td>♣ 8752</td></tr> </table>	♠ A732	N	♠ 109864	♥ KJ92	W	♥ Q1085	♦ Q1076	E	♦ Void	♣ 9	S	♣ 8752		
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♥ KJ92	W	♥ Q1085													
♦ Q1076	E	♦ Void													
♣ 9	S	♣ 8752													
	♠ Q5 ♥ 3 ♦ KJ853 ♣ KQ1064														

You are declarer in 5♦ and West leads the ♠A and continues with a low spade. How do you plan the play?

You have bid the hand well, to the best game although the small slam would be a fair shot. However, you mustn't let that distract you from playing the hand correctly. The contract is only in danger if the trumps break 4-0. If you carelessly play the ace of diamonds first, you will find you have two trump losers if West started with all four missing ones. You can guarantee losing only one trump at most, by playing the king first. If East shows out, you play low to the nine next, while if West shows out, you play low to the ace and back to the jack.

Deal 4

4.	♠ A73 ♥ K92 ♦ KQ1065 ♣ 62		♠ J8 ♥ Q1074 ♦ J874 ♣ Q98												
	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td>♠ Q1054</td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td>♠ J8</td></tr> <tr><td>♥ J83</td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td>♥ Q1074</td></tr> <tr><td>♦ 3</td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td><td>♦ J874</td></tr> <tr><td>♣ A10754</td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td>♣ Q98</td></tr> </table>	♠ Q1054	N	♠ J8	♥ J83	W	♥ Q1074	♦ 3	E	♦ J874	♣ A10754	S	♣ Q98		
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	♠ K962 ♥ A65 ♦ A92 ♣ KJ3														

You are declarer in 3NT and West leads the ♣5. East plays the ♣Q. How do you plan the play?

You need only four diamond tricks to make the contract and, while that is easy, you must not lose the lead to East, who will doubtless carry on with the club attack. So win the first trick and then play a diamond to the king, followed by a low one back to the nine. Even if it loses to West, he cannot profitably continue leading clubs and by now you have nine tricks. On a good day, the nine will win and West will show out, giving you maximum return for your thoughtful play.