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

By David Huggett

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ 97 ♥ 6542 ♦ KQ2 ♣ A1083	
WEST ♠ Q3 ♥ Q10873 ♦ A84 ♣ 765	Deal 3	EAST ♠ J10864 ♥ J9 ♦ 763 ♣ K42
	SOUTH ♠ AK52 ♥ AK ♦ J1095 ♣ QJ0	

You are declarer in 3NT and West leads the ♥7. How do you plan the play?

If the club finesse works, then it will be a simple matter to knock out the ace of diamonds later and come to more than enough tricks. But what if it loses? Presumably, East will return a heart and you will be in trouble if West has the diamond ace and enough hearts remaining to beat you.

Now try playing on diamonds first. Whoever wins will play a heart, but now, when you take the club finesse, you will survive even if it is wrong, because either East will have no hearts left or the suit would have broken 4-3, when all you are losing are two hearts and a trick in each minor.

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ A10732 ♥ K843 ♦ 10 ♣ 854	
WEST ♠ 6 ♥ J976 ♦ 9632 ♣ KQJ9	Deal 4	EAST ♠ K4 ♥ Q1052 ♦ A874 ♣ 1073
	SOUTH ♠ QJ985 ♥ A ♦ KQJ5 ♣ A62	

4

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

That club lead has hit your weak spot and, if you are not careful, you might lose a trump, a diamond and two clubs. You can discard a club loser from hand on the king of hearts once you have unblocked the ace. So do just that and then play a trump to the ace, spurning the finesse so that you can get that vital discard.

You might lose a trump trick even if the finesse was right, but you have guaranteed your contract. |