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

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By David Huggett

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ K972 ♥ K103 ♦ A742 ♣ K5	
WEST ♠ 64 ♥ 98642 ♦ 8 ♣ Q10872	Deal 3	EAST ♠ 5 ♥ AQ7 ♦ KJ9653 ♣ J64
	SOUTH ♠ AQJ1083 ♥ J5 ♦ Q10 ♣ A93	

You are declarer in 4♠ and West leads the ♦8. How do you plan the play?

It might look tempting to duck the opening lead in dummy in case West has led away from the king but that would prove disastrous on the actual layout, where West has a singleton diamond and East has both the ace and queen of hearts. In fact, there are always ten tricks available via six spades, one diamond, two clubs and a club ruff, so play safe and win the opening lead, draw trumps and hope to make a heart trick for an overtrick. This won't happen on the actual hand, but at least you have guaranteed your contract.

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ A74 ♥ J92 ♦ A84 ♣ K972	
WEST ♠ KQJ103 ♥ 1083 ♦ Q8 ♣ Q83	Deal 4	EAST ♠ 952 ♥ 7654 ♦ J1095 ♣ 109
	SOUTH ♠ 86 ♥ AKQ ♦ K732 ♣ AJ64	

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

If you can make three club tricks, you will make your contract as long as you don't lose too many tricks first. Presumably, it will be West who has the spade length if the suit breaks 5-3, so your first move must be to hold up the ace until the third round. But, of course, you must strive to keep West off lead now, so it cannot be right to take a club finesse into the West hand. Instead, play a club to the ace and then lead a low club, playing the nine if West plays low. Should West show out, you simply win the king and play back to the jack. As long as West does not hold at least three clubs with both the queen and the ten, you will make the contract.