

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

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

By David Huggett

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ J42 ♥ KJ10 ♦ KJ74 ♣ KQ2	
WEST ♠ Q1087 ♥ Q532 ♦ 86 ♣ 854	Deal 1	EAST ♠ K5 ♥ 764 ♦ 102 ♣ J109763
	SOUTH ♠ A963 ♥ A98 ♦ AQ953 ♣ A	

You are declarer in 6♦ and West leads the ♠5. How do you plan the play?

It looks at first as though you have to find the queen of hearts but maybe you can do better than that. Draw trumps ending in dummy and throw two low spades on the king and queen of clubs.

Now play ace and another spade and, if East started with a doubleton king or queen, he will be endplayed to give either a ruff and discard or open up the hearts. As an alert West might pitch the king or queen of spades from a doubleton to avoid this endplay, it would be good technique to cash the ace of spades at an early stage before the defence have latched on to your plan..

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ KQ5 ♥ 75 ♦ 9763 ♣ A632	
WEST ♠ 762 ♥ Q10863 ♦ Q108 ♣ Q7	Deal 2	EAST ♠ J943 ♥ KJ9 ♦ J42 ♣ 1098
	SOUTH ♠ A108 ♥ A42 ♦ AK5 ♣ KJ54	

You are declarer in 3NT and West leads the ♥6. East plays the ♥K. How do you plan the play?

With eight tricks on top you have to find only one more but the danger is that, in setting up that extra trick, you might allow the opposition to cash too many hearts. It would certainly be right to hold up the ace of hearts until the third round but you must not take the club finesse in case it loses to West. Basically, if the club finesse works you do not need to take it and, as a safety precaution, you should play out the king and the ace first.

On a good day, the queen will be doubleton with West. If all follow low to the first two rounds, you have to hope that it is East who has the queen.