

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

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

By David Huggett

1.

	♠ 7 6 4										
	♥ K 10 8 6										
	♦ Q 10 9 4										
	♣ 7 5										
♠ A J 9	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 10 8 5 3
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♥ 5 4 2		♥ 7									
♦ A 5		♦ 8 6 3 2									
♣ Q J 9 8 4		♣ K 6 3									
	♠ K 2										
	♥ A Q J 9 3										
	♦ K J 7										
	♣ A 10 2										

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

You will be defeated only if you lose two spades, one diamond and a club, so you have to turn your attention to the best way to avoid two spade losers. Clearly, everything will be fine if East holds the ace in that suit, but if it is West, you have to try to avoid East ever being on lead and you can go about this by ducking the opening lead. Win the continuation, draw trumps and now knock out the ace of diamonds. If East has the ace in that suit and West has the spade ace you will be defeated, but in every other case you will succeed.

2.

	♠ J 6 3										
	♥ K Q 8										
	♦ J 5 4										
	♣ A 8 6 4										
♠ K 9 8 2	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; text-align: center;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ Q 10 7 4
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♥ 9 2		♥ 10 5 4 3									
♦ Q 9 8		♦ K 7 6									
♣ J 7 5 3		♣ K 2									
	♠ A 5										
	♥ A J 7 6										
	♦ A 10 3 2										
	♣ Q 10 9										

You are declarer in 3NT and West leads the ♠2. How do you plan the play?

The spade lead makes it look as though that suit is breaking 4-4. It cannot be wrong to play the jack from dummy in case West started with the king and queen, but here, the jack is covered by the queen. Assuming that there are only three losers in spades, you have to work out the best way to play clubs to try and make three tricks in that suit and the correct way is to take two finesses through West. So, win the lead and play the queen of clubs. If it should lose and they cash three spade tricks, later you will have to take a finesse against the jack.