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DECLARER PLAY QUIZ - May 2014 - original - [Here](#)
 Our thanks to MrBridge
 By David Huggett

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ 53 ♥ KQJ6 ♦ K74 ♣ A754	
WEST ♠ 8 ♥ A854 ♦ 10852 ♣ J1096	Deal 1	EAST ♠ Q974 ♥ 973 ♦ 96 ♣ KQ83
	SOUTH ♠ AKJ1062 ♥ 102 ♦ AQJ3 ♣ 2	

You are declarer in 6♣ and West leads the ♣J. How do you plan the play?

With a certain loser in hearts, you have to hope that you don't lose a trump trick. On the surface, it might look right to play off a top spade before taking a trump finesse, but that is wrong. It is true that playing a top trump first will gain whenever West has a singleton queen, but it will lose whenever West has a singleton 4,7,8 or 9 because you will be unable to capture East's queen.

So win the lead in Dummy and play a spade to the ten. If that wins, re-enter dummy with a diamond and repeat the finesse. You will have to lose the ace of hearts but your contract is secure.

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ 654 ♥ A2 ♦ AQ10765 ♣ K7	
WEST ♠ A10872 ♥ Q108 ♦ 82 ♣ J94	Deal 2	EAST ♠ J3 ♥ J9743 ♦ K4 ♣ Q1086
	SOUTH ♠ KQ9 ♥ K65 ♦ J93 ♣ A532	

You are declarer in 3NT and West leads the ♠7. East plays the ♠J. How do you plan the play?

If the diamond finesse is working, you have more than enough tricks for the contract, but are you in danger if it doesn't work? Well, you are if you inadvertently won the first trick. East will win the diamond and play back a spade and, if West started with a five-card suit, you will lose four tricks in spades and the king of diamonds for a one trick defeat. The answer, of course, is simple; just duck the jack of spades at trick one. If East returns the suit, he will either have no more spades left when he wins the diamond or the spade suit will have broken 4-3 which means you would lose just three spades and a diamond. But you still have nine tricks.