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

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By David Huggett

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ A753 ♥ 84 ♦ KQ732 ♣ 105	
WEST ♠ QJ1084 ♥ J97 ♦ 4 ♣ A983	Deal 3	EAST ♠ K96 ♥ 10652 ♦ J65 ♣ K72
	SOUTH ♠ 2 ♥ AKQ3 ♦ A1098 ♣ QJ64	

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

When a contract looks too easy, it is good practice to look for hidden dangers and this is the case here. With apparently one spade, three hearts and five diamonds, there seem to be nine easy tricks and, although a 4-0 diamond break could prove problematic, there is a far greater danger that they break 3-1 with the jack being in the three-card holding. Then, you will find the diamonds are blocked with no entry to dummy to enjoy the fifth winner in that suit. But how about ducking the opening lead? Then, later, you can discard a diamond on the ace of spades and the suit becomes easy to run for five tricks.

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ 743 ♥ KQJ3 ♦ K84 ♣ AK2	
WEST ♠ Q ♥ A982 ♦ 10762 ♣ QJ107	Deal 4	EAST ♠ 9865 ♥ 654 ♦ 95 ♣ 9843
	SOUTH ♠ AKJ102 ♥ 107 ♦ AQJ3 ♣ 65	

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

This hand might look very similar to Hand 1, but in fact it is very different. Again, with a certain heart loser, you have to play spades in the optimum fashion and you should realise that the contract is unmakeable if the suit breaks 5-0. But what about the 4-1 breaks? If East has the queen in a four card holding, you can pick up the suit without loss, but the difference this time is that you can afford to play a top spade off first in case West holds the singleton queen. If nothing happens when you play the ace, then enter dummy with a club and take a trump finesse and if West shows out, you still have the king of diamonds in dummy to allow you to take a repeat finesse.