

## MrBRIDGE LIBRARY ARTICLE

Thanks to MrBridge and David Huggett

PLAY QUIZ - Jan 2017 - original - [Here](#)

3.

♠ 10 3 2		
♥ A 6 5		
♦ 7 5 2		
♣ 8 7 5 4		
♠ A Q 8		♠ 9 7 6 5 4
♥ J 10 9 7 3		♥ 4 2
♦ Q 9 8 3		♦ J 10
♣ 9		♣ J 10 6 3
♠ K J		
♥ K Q 8		
♦ A K 6 4		
♣ A K Q 2		

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

With such an easy looking contract you have to be extra careful. Suppose you win the lead in hand and test the clubs. If they don't break, you might be tempted to duck a diamond in the hope of a 3-3 split, but if you do that - and they don't break - you will be defeated. In fact, once you count your tricks, the contract is 100% guaranteed because you must make a spade trick by force, thanks to that ten sitting in dummy. Simply win the heart lead in hand and play the ♠K. Win the heart continuation in hand and play the ♠J, which sets up the ten in dummy while you still have an entry. If you mistakenly duck a diamond, say, early on, then repeated heart leads will deprive you of an entry to dummy.

4.

♠ 7 6 5		
♥ A 10 7 6		
♦ A 6 5		
♣ J 9 2		
♠ Q 10 4 3		♠ K J 9
♥ 4 2		♥ K 5
♦ J 9 8 3		♦ 10 7 4 2
♣ A 10 3		♣ 8 7 5 4
♠ A 8 2		
♥ Q J 9 8 3		
♦ K Q		
♣ K Q 6		

You are declarer in 4♥ and West leads the ♠3. How do you plan the play

Thinking ahead is absolutely essential at bridge and that certainly applies to the hand above. Your potential losers are two spades, one heart and a club while your potential winners are one spade, four hearts, three diamonds and two clubs - so something doesn't add up. In fact, you have to get rid of a loser fast, which means not losing the lead early on.

Simply win the lead, play both diamonds in hand and then play a trump to the ace, refusing the finesse. Once there, you can play a third diamond pitching a spade loser and only then can you continue playing trumps.