

# MrBRIDGE LIBRARY ARTICLE

Thanks to MrBridge and David Huggett

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

1.

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

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

The normal way to play trumps would be to bash out the ace and king, but that cannot be right here. You can afford to lose a trump, but perhaps not to East who might lead a heart through your king and then if the ace of that suit is with West, you are in danger of losing three hearts and a spade. So, play safe by playing the ace of trumps and then finessing against the queen, not really caring if the finesse loses to West because you still have tricks to spare. It is often best to fear the worst.

2.

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

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

For once, there is no guarantee that this contract will make, for you are in danger of losing three spades and two clubs, so is there anything you can do to make the defenders' task harder? Indeed there is. Duck the opening lead and win the continuation, but if you now simply lead a low club from hand, it will be easy for West to duck if he holds one honour in that suit. East will win, return his last spade and now if the other club honour is with West, you will be defeated. Make it difficult for East by crossing to dummy and leading the ♣3. If he plays low and the club honours are split, you will have cut communications between the two hands. If both defenders duck, you have nine tricks.