

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

DECLARER PLAY QUIZ – October 2016 – original - [Here](#)

By David Huggett

1.

	♠ 93	
	♥ K765	
	♦ A82	
	♣ AJ64	
♠ A10852		♠ Q76
♥ Q1043		♥ J98
♦ 1063		♦ J954
♣ 9		♣ Q87
	♠ KJ4	
	♥ A2	
	♦ KQ7	
	♣ K10532	

You are declarer in 3NT and West leads the ♠5. East plays the ♠Q. How do you plan the play?

The Rule of Eleven tells you that East has at least three spades, so there is no use in trying any sort of hold-up. Nor is there any need, for all you have to do is try to ensure that East never gains the lead to push a spade through your remaining holding. Although the odds favour playing the clubs from the top there are other considerations here, so play a club to the ace and finesse on the way back. If it loses, West can do you no harm with another spade lead. Win or lose you have at least enough tricks for your contract.

2.

	♠ 63	
	♥ AJ7	
	♦ 9753	
	♣ K864	
♠ AJ94		♠ K875
♥ 642		♥ 8
♦ QJ102		♦ K864
♣ 95		♣ J1073
	♠ Q102	
	♥ KQ10953	
	♦ A	
	♣ AQ2	

You are declarer in 5♥ and West leads the ♦Q. How do you plan the play?

Flirting for a slam has got you to the five-level. There are ten tricks ‘on top’ and at first glance it looks as though the eleventh might come from a fourth club if they break 3-3, or a spade if East has the knave and a higher honour. But it’s much more simple than that. Simply go for a spade ruff in dummy by leading one from hand. Maybe the defenders will switch to a trump but you just win and lead another spade and eventually ruff the third in dummy. Notice that it would be wrong to cross to dummy with a trump in order to lead a spade, because the defenders might be able to continue leading trumps and deny you your ruff.