

Mr Bridge magazine  
Play quiz by David Huggett

July 2016 Board 1 original-[Here](#)

1.

♠ 6 5		
♥ A Q J 3		
♦ 10 5 3 2		
♣ 10 7 5		
♠ J 10 9 7 2		♠ 8 4 3
♥ 8 2		♥ K 10 9 4
♦ J 6		♦ Q 9 8 4
♣ K 8 4 3		♣ A 6
	♠ AKQ	
	♥ 7 6 5	
	♦ AK7	
	♣ QJ92	



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


You might make four heart tricks if it is your lucky day, but that is a long shot, and besides, it would be wrong to tackle hearts first. Why? Because if East has the ♥K and returns a spade, you would need to play on clubs where two tricks are assured. If East wins the first club and returns His last spade, then you will be defeated if West has the remaining club honour and two more spades. In all, you would have lost two spades, one heart and two clubs. Now, try tackling clubs first and see the difference. The point is that if the heart finesse loses later on in the play, then East will have been exhausted of spades.

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July 2016 Board No 2

2.

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



You are declarer in 6♣ and West leads the ♠4. East follows suit. How do you plan the play?

It may look as though the contract just needs either the club king or the diamond king to be onside, but in fact you can do better than that.

Suppose you draw trumps and lead the jack of clubs, losing to East's king. If East then returns a diamond you will not know whether to take the finesse or hope that the remaining clubs break evenly when you could obtain three diamond discards. You are put to a premature decision.

Much better is to draw trumps ending in dummy and lead a low club. If East plays the king, then unless clubs break really badly you will have the discards you need. If East withholds the king, then you have no club loser. If West wins, then you can try for the club break before falling back upon the diamond finesse.