

Mr Bridge magazine  
Play quiz by David Huggett

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

1.

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

You are declarer in 3NT and West leads the ♥Q. East plays the ♥9. How do you plan the play?

It may be reflexive to duck the opening lead, but that would be a grave mistake. Whether hearts are 4-3 (only three losers) or if they are 5-2 (and are now probably blocked since you can place East with the king) you have more serious things to worry about. You have to make sure your opponents do not have the chance to switch to spades and take out that precious entry to your diamonds. (East, of course, will duck the first diamond lead.) So win the opening lead and play diamonds until the ace appears and you will find you have the nine tricks you need.

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June 2016 Board No 2

2.

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

You are declarer in 4♥ and West leads the ♦Q. How do you plan the play?

At first glance it looks as though you can only lose two trumps and a club, but if you are not careful things can take a nasty turn.

Suppose you win the opening lead and play a trump. The defence will probably play another diamond knocking out your last stopper in that suit, so that when you eventually lose a club the defenders might well be in a position to cash a diamond, giving you four losers in all.

The solution is simple enough though - play the queen of clubs at trick two to knock out the ace and aim to park your losing diamond on a club winner in dummy before touching trumps.