

Mr Bridge magazine  
Play quiz by David Huggett

June 2016 Board 3 original-[Here](#)

3.

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

You are declarer in 6NT and West leads the ♥Q. How do you plan the play?

The contract is reasonable enough, but you have only ten tricks immediately available to you and they have undoubtedly found the best lead from their perspective.

If you can make four diamond tricks, you will have enough for your contract, but equally, if you can make four spade tricks you will also have enough.

So the problem is to combine your chances. This can be achieved by playing the top two diamonds (the suit with the most cards and so best chance of dropping a high card) to see if the queen appears and, if not, to take the spade finesse.

Of course, it is important for you to play the king of diamonds before the ace, because if the queen of diamonds does not appear you need two entries to dummy in order to take two finesses in spades.

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June 2016 Board No 4

4.

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

You are declarer in 6♣ and West leads the ♣3. East plays the ♣J. How do you plan the play?

This is a huge contract and surely only in danger if you lose both a trump and a diamond. While just taking two finesses would be a reasonable plan, it is not the best.

So, win the opening lead and play the ace of trumps. If the king falls your problems are over, but if not, eliminate both hearts and clubs by ruffing the third in each suit and exit with a trump. Whoever wins will be forced to either open up the diamond suit or give you a ruff and discard.

This plan is bound to work unless trumps break 3-0 when you will have to sniff out the missing queen of diamonds. †