

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

DECLARER PLAY QUIZ - November 2015 - original - [Here](#)

By David Huggett

3.

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

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

You have eleven tricks on top and if you can locate the position of the diamond queen, you can take the finesse in the correct direction. Wouldn't it be so much better if the opposition took that finesse for you? The answer lies in an elimination and endplay.

Win the club lead and ruff a club high. Enter dummy with a trump and ruff the last club and draw any remaining trumps. Now, play three rounds of spades from the top. Whoever wins that third round will either have to give you a ruff and discard by leading a black suit or open up the diamonds to your advantage.

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4.

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

You are declarer in 4♣ and West leads the top three hearts with East following. West then leads the ♦J. How do you plan the play?

Obviously you cannot afford to lose a trump and playing the ace would gain only if West held the singleton king, so it must be right to play for the king to be onside. However, it is all too easy to be lazy and simply play a spade to the queen and then you will be defeated if East started with all three missing trumps.

The answer is simple, of course, just lead the jack from dummy. If East covers, any bad break will come to light and then you can finesse against the ten.