

Mr Bridge Magazine

Play Quiz by Davis Haggett – Sept 2016 – 3

3.

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

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

You know from the Rule of Eleven that East has at least three spades so it is pointless holding off the first trick. Equally you do not want East to ever gain the lead because a spade lead through your now exposed remaining honor could prove embarrassing. So while it might look obvious to play off a top club, that would be fatal if East had at least three to the queen and jack. So simply play a heart to dummy and lead a club from the table, covering whatever card East happens to play and if East plays an honour, just return to dummy and repeat the process. You may sacrifice a trick or two, but you have guaranteed your contract.

Play Quiz - 4

4.

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

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

You have an inescapable club loser and a possible loser in hearts as well, so is there a better plan than just taking an inspired view in hearts? Well yes, for if West has the ace of clubs the contract is a certainty. So draw trumps ending in hand and lead a low club. If West has the ace and plays it, then you have two club tricks and twelve tricks in all, so West does best to play low. Now you win in dummy and play the two top diamonds pitching a club from hand and ruff the third diamond. Finally, you play the now singleton king of clubs which West must win - only to find himself hopelessly end-played. A heart return picks up the suit for you while a club or a diamond gives you a ruff and discard. Of course, if East has the ace of clubs then it's back to the heart finesse.