

# MrBRIDGE LIBRARY ARTICLE

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TEST YOUR DEFENCE - April 2017 - original - [Here](#)

By JULIAN POTTAGE

1.

	♠ A Q 9 2					
	♥ Q 2					
	♦ A K					
	♣ J 9 6 4 3					
♠ J 6	♠ 4 3	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W   E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>		N	W   E	S
N						
W   E						
S						
♥ J 7 4	♥ A K 10 6 5					
♦ J 9 5 4 3	♦ 8 6 2					
♣ A 8 5	♣ Q 10 2					
	♠ K 10 8 7 5					
	♥ 9 8 3					
	♦ Q 10 7					
	♣ K 7					

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	1♥	1♠
2♥	3♣	Pass	4♣

All Pass

Partner leads the ♥4. What is your plan?

You begin by cashing the two top hearts. If you fail to do so, declarer might hold the ♠Q-x-x and discard a heart from dummy on the ♠Q. What do you do then?

While the only real hope of further tricks is in the club suit, you should be patient and return a diamond. If you lead a club, declarer might hold ♠A-K-x and avoid a loser. On the actual layout, leading a club allows your opponent to make the contract. There is no guess as your initial pass means that you can hardly hold the ♠A.

2.

	♠ 10 8 7 2					
	♥ A Q J 2					
	♦ A 2					
	♣ 10 6 4					
♠ 9 6 4	♠ J 3	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W   E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>		N	W   E	S
N						
W   E						
S						
♥ 10 7 4 3	♥ 8 6 5					
♦ K 9 3	♦ J 8 6 5					
♣ J 7 5	♣ A K Q 8					
	♠ A K Q 5					
	♥ K 9					
	♦ Q 10 7 4					
	♣ 9 3 2					

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣*	Pass	2♣
Pass	3♣	Pass	4♣

All Pass

Partner leads the ♣5. What is your plan?

For sure, you should win the first club and cash a second round. Indeed, you will surely then play a third round. Three rounds will stand up if partner has led middle from three low cards or low from J-x-x.

Having taken three rounds of clubs, you do not want to play the thirteenth club. That would give a ruff and discard while offering limited hope of a trump promotion. A switch to avoid is a diamond. If partner has the ♦K but not the ♦10, declarer can insert the ♦10 to force out the ♦K. While a trump switch will generally be safe, you might be saving your opponent a guess if partner has ♠K-9-x. A heart is your correct exit at trick four.