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

By JULIAN POTTAGE

3.

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

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	2♣	Pass	Pass
Dbl	3♣	All Pass	

You lead the ♥Q, on which go the ♥2, ♥4 (low shows an odd number or discourages) and ♥9. How do you continue?

With the less than revealing bidding, you cannot be quite so sure of the layout of the suit you have led. Partner might have started with three hearts rather than five. Assuming for now that partner started with five hearts, declarer will have a singleton in each hand as on the previous deal. With the ace-king and another spade in your hand, you are in a great position to cut your opponents' ruffing power by playing three rounds of trumps.

When partner discards a heart on the second round, you are sure that you have read the heart layout correctly. If, unexpectedly, partner followed to two rounds of trumps, you would have time then to revert to hearts.

4.

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

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	2♦	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	All Pass	

You lead the ♣A: ♣J, ♣2 and ♣8. How do you continue?

Yet again, dummy has a singleton. Does this mean another switch to a trump?

The circumstances here are different. For one thing, if partner has Q-x or J-x of trumps, leading the suit will blow a defensive trump trick. For another, dummy's strong holdings in the red suits mean that removing dummy's trumps might not help much. You should instead switch to a diamond. You know that no tricks are coming in hearts (South never raised). Moreover, you might interpret the ♣2 as a suit-preference signal for diamonds.