

# MrBRIDGE LIBRARY ARTICLE

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TEST YOUR DEFENCE - Dec 2016 - original - [Here](#)

By JULIAN POTTAGE

1.

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

	♠ A J 8 5 3 2	
	♥ 6 5	
	♦ A K 3	
	♣ J 5	

West	North	East	South
		1NT	2♠
4NT <sup>1</sup>	5♠	All Pass	

<sup>1</sup>Both minors

Partner leads the ♣A. What do you do?

Inwardly you can congratulate your partner on having found a club lead. What can you do to have the suit continued? The usual way to encourage a suit is to play a high spot card. Here, the ♣3 is in definite danger of not looking very high. A much clearer and safer way to show your strength is to drop the ♣K. This must show the ♣Q with it. If you fail to signal emphatically for clubs, partner might switch to a diamond, playing you for the ♦A. The contract then makes.

2.

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

	♠ 9 5 3	
	♥ A K J 10 7 2	
	♦ A 2	
	♣ J 10	

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦ <sup>1</sup>
2♠	Pass	Pass	4♥

All Pass      <sup>1</sup>Transfer to hearts

Partner leads out the three top spades. What is your plan?

Given the bidding, and in partner's case the lack of an opening bid, you can place the rest of the high cards on your left. You also have a good idea that there will be six hearts there. On any switch other than to a club at trick four, declarer is likely to be able to make six tricks in hearts and four in diamonds for ten in all - you can wave goodbye to the ♣A.

Playing standard discards, high encouraging and low discouraging, you lack the ideal cards. Partner might read the ♦7 as low or the ♣3 as high - but you can hardly be sure.

Can you see the easy way to ensure your ♣A makes? Ruff the third round of spades, giving yourself the lead. Then you cannot go wrong.