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

By JULIAN POTTAGE

1.

	♠ 10 8 5 ♥ A Q 9 2 ♦ A 10 5 4 3 ♣ Q					
♠ 6 4 ♥ J 5 4 ♦ J 9 6 2 ♣ A K 8 4	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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	♠ A K 2 ♥ 10 8 7 3 ♦ 8 7 ♣ 10 7 6 2	
N						
W E						
S						
	♠ Q J 9 7 3 ♥ K 6 ♦ K Q ♣ J 9 5 3					

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

You lead the ♣A: ♣Q, ♣7 and ♣3. What do you do next?

With the singleton club in dummy, you do not want to continue clubs. Indeed, you want to cut down on dummy's ability to ruff. You should switch to a trump. As the cards lie, partner can play two more rounds, enabling you to draw all of dummy's trumps and defeat the contract. On another day, partner's trumps will be weaker and you will save an overtrick.

2.

	♠ Q ♥ J 10 7 2 ♦ 10 8 5 4 ♣ Q J 7 3					
♠ 10 6 5 ♥ K 8 6 ♦ J 6 ♣ A K 9 5 4	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px;"> <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	♠ K J 8 2 ♥ A 4 ♦ Q 9 7 2 ♣ 10 6 2	
N						
W E						
S						
	♠ A 9 7 4 3 ♥ Q 9 5 3 ♦ A K 3 ♣ 8					

West	North	East	South
			1♣
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
All Pass			

You lead the ♣A: ♣3, ♣2 and ♣8. How do you continue?

You would expect partner to play highlow with a doubleton. The ♣2 therefore shows either three clubs or one. Given that South has bid both majors and that partner did not overcall 2♦, you can be almost certain that the singleton club is on your right.

Believing that both of your opponents hold a singleton, a trump switch is surely right. Your king remains guarded even after you lead away from it. Partner can win with the ace and return the suit, enabling you to win and play a third round. The contract then fails.

If partner's hand was weaker, the switch might not beat the contract - but avoiding an overtrick might save many matchpoints .