

MrBRIDGE LIBRARY ARTICLE

Thanks to MrBridge

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

By JULIAN POTTAGE

3.

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

West	North	East	South
			1♣
2♣	3♦	3♠	Pass
Pass	Dbl	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♣	All Pass	

You lead the ♥J, on which go the ♥A, ♥2 and ♥3. At trick two, the ♠Q runs to your ♠K. How do you continue?

On the bidding, you can hope partner holds one of the missing kings. The discouraging ♥2 at trick one tells you the ♥K is on your right. If partner has the ♦K and declarer does not have a ruffing finesse position (or plays you for the ♦K), you might beat the contract by two by waiting for a spade lead through. If, instead, partner holds the ♠K, you must lead the suit. Three clues all point the same way: (i) lacking the ♠K, partner might have encouraged hearts (ii) South might have bid 3NT if holding the ♠K, (iii) with no ♠K, partner might not have raised. Lead the ♠A.

4.

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

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

You lead the ♥Q: ♥K, ♥2 and ♥3. At trick two, the ♠10 runs to your ♠K. How do you continue?

Chances of beating this contract are slim. Unless partner holds a trump trick, you need three diamond tricks (or two and a ruff) right now. This means finding partner with K-Q-x, K-x or precisely K-J10. To cater for the latter two holdings you would need to underlead your ♦A. Bearing in mind that declarer might have taken the ♠A to discard a diamond from dummy on the ♥A, this is most unlikely. You should just cash the ♦A, cutting down on overtricks as far as you can. ■