

MrBRIDGE LIBRARY ARTICLE

Thanks to MrBridge and JULIAN POTTAGE

TEST YOUR DEFENCE - Nov 2015 - original - [Here](#)

1.

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

West	North	East	South
			1♦
Pass	1♥	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

You are declarer in 3NT after East opened with a weak 2 . West leads KQ- J, with East following and you win the third round. How do you plan the play?

It looks as though you have only eight tricks, but, in fact, the contract is assured as long as East has the king of spades and no more than three diamonds. You know from the bidding and the play so far that East has nine red cards and if he has no more diamonds left, he will be strip squeezed when you take five rounds of clubs. Most likely, he will come down to three hearts and two spades, but you just play the ace and

heart and he will be forced to lead away from his king of spades, giving you two tricks in that suit. If he discards a spade and two hearts, then you play the spade ace and drop his now singleton king.

2.

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

West	North	East	South
--	--	--	3 Heart
Pass	4 Heart	All pass	

Partner leads the 7 (second and fourth), dummy playing low. What is your plan?

With only two higher cards out, the 9 and J, you read the 7 as second highest from a poor suit. Besides, without the J in hand, declarer would have played an honour from dummy. There is little point in ducking the first trick and some danger in doing so: J-x or three low spades with declarer might allow him to discard a diamond on a spade, for example. Having taken the A, you have two options. You could switch to a trump, playing partner for the A and Q-x. Then your side makes the first four tricks with two clubs and two aces. The alternative is to cash the

A before it runs away, hoping that partner has two trump tricks (K-J-x, K-Q-x, A-Q-x or A-J-x, for example). This is a better bet because, although it still requires partner to hold two honours, it depends rather less on how many clubs declarer holds.