

MrBRIDGE LIBRARY ARTICLE

Thanks to MrBridge and JULIAN POTTAGE

TEST YOUR DEFENCE - Nov 2015 - original -

3.

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

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Partner leads the ♠ Q. What is your plan?

Again you have two decisions. Do you grab your ace? What do you lead next if you do?

For two reasons you should take the ♠ A. The main one is that declarer might hold K-x in each minor and be able to discard a club on the third round of diamonds. The lesser one is the chance of a singleton ♠ K.

Having taken the ♠ A, the natural thing to do is to lead up to dummy's spade weakness. To warn partner that you have nothing in spades, you switch to the ♠ 7. If you do not switch to a spade, declarer can get home: knock out the ♠ A, draw trumps, cash the minor tops and then take the spade finesse to endplay West.

4.

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

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

Partner leads the ♠ 10 (standard) and dummy plays low. What is your plan?

Would it be the same playing strong tens with the ♠ 9 led?

A count of points tells you that partner cannot hold the ♠ Q and the ♠ A - doing so would leave South with only 9 - so you should defend the same way whether you know who holds the ♠ Q or not. The only hope is to run the hearts, playing partner for A-10-x. You cannot afford to lead the ♠ K - that would block the suit - you must try a low heart - a fourth best ♠ 4 is normal. Be brave!