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TEST YOUR DEFENCE - August 2013 - original - [Here](#)

By JULIAN POTTAGE

Dealer :South Vul :	NORTH ♠ 54 ♥ 973 ♦ A8654 ♣ AQ9	
WEST ♠ J8763 ♥ K10 ♦ Q93 ♣ 652	Deal 1	EAST ♠ AK10 ♥ J654 ♦ J7 ♣ 8743
	SOUTH ♠ Q92 ♥ AQ82 ♦ K102 ♣ KJ10	

South	West	North	East
1 Heart	Pass	2 Diamond	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

You lead the ♠6. Partner wins with the ♠K, cashes the ♠A and continues with the ♠10. Declarer, having won the third round with the ♠Q, leads the ♦2. What do you do?

Answer

If declarer is going to dummy to finesse in hearts, you can relax. However, as dummy has five diamonds, declarer may be trying to set up the suit - and trying to keep you off lead. To ensure that it is not possible to play the ♦8 to duck a diamond into East, you need to insert the ♦9. Declarer may then play the diamonds from the top - but you will be able to win the third round and run the spades.

Dealer :	NORTH ♠ 1054 ♥ AK103 ♦ QJ854 ♣ K	
WEST ♠ K8763 ♥ 97 ♦ K6 ♣ J962	Deal 2	EAST ♠ Q2 ♥ Q654 ♦ A7 ♣ 98743
	SOUTH ♠ AJ9 ♥ J82 ♦ 10932 ♣ AQ10	

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 Club	Pass
2 Diamond	Pass	3 NT	All Pass
* No 4 card Major			

You lead the ♠6. Declarer, having captured your partner's ♠Q with the ♠A, leads the ♦2. What do you do?

Answer

Since the rule is to play the lower of equals in third seat, you know from the play to the first trick that declarer has the ♠J. This means your spades are not ready to run. This in turn indicates that you want to conserve your ♦K entry until declarer's remaining spade stopper has gone. You need to duck the first diamond so that East can take the ♦A and return a spade. While this may seem risky, declarer's play of the suit from hand strongly suggests that East has the ♦A.