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

By JULIAN POTTAGE

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ Q974 ♥ K1053 ♦ KQ4 ♣ K4	
WEST ♠ KJ6 ♥ 87 ♦ J86 ♣ A9652	Deal 3	EAST ♠ A2 ♥ J964 ♦ 752 ♣ J873
	SOUTH ♠ 10853 ♥ AQ2 ♦ A1093 ♣ Q10	

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 Club *	Pass
2 Spade	Pass	4 Spade	All Pass
* Asking for 4 card Major			

You lead the ♥8: ♥3, ♥6, ♥A. Declarer now leads the ♠3. How do you defend?

**Answer**

You should begin by counting points. South has shown 12-14 points; you can see 9 in your hand and 13 in dummy. This leaves a maximum of 6 points for partner.

If these include the ♠A, which is certainly possible, you should be able to score a heart ruff. Since you are not yet in a position to take the ruff, you need to conserve partner's entry. Doing this means going in with the ♠K. You can then continue hearts. When, as hoped, partner does have the ♠A, you can ruff a heart and cash the ♣A to beat the contract by a trick. It would not matter if South has a doubleton heart because you can overruff declarer with the ♠J..

Dealer : Vul :	NORTH ♠ J1074 ♥ AK5 ♦ AQ984 ♣ J	
WEST ♠ A6 ♥ 108743 ♦ 6 ♣ 106542	Deal 4	EAST ♠ ♥ K2 ♦ 96 ♣ J7532
	SOUTH ♠ Q9853 ♥ QJ2 ♦ K10 ♣ K97	

South	West	North	East
--	--	1 Diamond	Pass
1 Spade	Pass	3 Spade	Pass
4 Spade	All Pass		

You lead the ♦6: ♦4, ♦2, ♦10. Declarer now leads the ♠3. What is your plan?

You led your singleton diamond to get a ruff. Of course, you would much rather ruff with your low spade than with the ace. This indicates that you go in with the ♠A. You need not worry that partner has the ♠Q but not the ♠K.

With a finesse position in trumps, declarer would have started the suit from dummy. Having taken the spade, you lead a club. Whether or not you read the ♦2 as a suit-preference signal for the lowranking club suit, a glance at dummy tells you that you cannot put partner in with a heart.