

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

TEST YOUR DEFENCE – December 2014 – original - [Here](#)

By JULIAN POTTAGE

Dealer : Vul :	NOR103TH ♠ 102 ♥ J952 ♦ KJ97 ♣ Q84	
WEST ♠ AQ654 ♥ AK73 ♦ 83 ♣ J7	Deal 1	EAST ♠ J72 ♥ Q8 ♦ 62 ♣ K108532
	SOUTH ♠ KQ8 ♥ 1064 ♦ AQ1054 ♣ A5	

South	West	North	East
1Diamond	1 Spade	X*	2 Spade
3 Diamond	All Pass		
• Take out			

♥A and the ♥K, East playing the ♥8 and ♥Q. How do you continue?

Clearly, with the ♥J visible in dummy, East would not drop the ♥Q unless it is doubleton. You want to continue with a third heart to give a ruff. Moreover, since you would like to get back in with the ♠A to play a fourth heart, so that declarer cannot discard a club on the ♥J, you should lead the ♥7. Your higher heart asks for the higher of the other suits.

Given the bidding, partner might guess to play back a spade anyway - but it costs nothing to make life easy for partner.

Dealer :	NORTH	
Vul :	♠ K ♥ K52 ♦ AJ109732 ♣ 93	
WEST ♠ 9842 ♥ 107 ♦ K8 ♣ AJ753	Deal 2	EAST ♠ AJ7 ♥ J8643 ♦ Q6 ♣ 1062
	SOUTH ♠ Q10853 ♥ AQ9 ♦ 54 ♣ KQ4	

South	West	North	East
--	--	1 Diamond	Pass
1 Spade	Pass	2 Diamond	Pass
3 NT	All Pass		

You lead the ♣5. Partner plays the ♣10, which loses to the ♣K. Declarer leads the ♦4, covered by the ♦8, ♦J and ♦Q. East now cashes the ♠A. What do you play?

Seeing the need to cash tricks quickly, your partner has quite correctly cashed the ♠A. Doing so combines the chance that you hold ♠Q-10-x-x or ♠Q-9-x-x with the chance that the club suit is running.

You know that you do not have any help in spades but can see a realistic chance that the club suit is running. How do you persuade partner to revert to clubs?

You discourage spades by playing the lowest spade you have, in this case the ♠2. After a club comes back, you can score the ♠A-J and then run the rest of the suit to defeat the contract by two tricks.