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

By JULIAN POTTAGE-Deal 1

1.

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


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

You lead the ♥10. East takes the ♥A and returns the ♥7, covered by the ♥8. You win with the ♥9, the ♠4 going from dummy. How do you proceed?

The ♥7 is not the return from A-7-x-x, so the ♥Q will not drop. You need to find East's ace (South cannot hold 14 points and rebid only 2NT). If it is the ♦A, there is no rush because declarer can never make eight tricks in the black suits. If it is the ♣A, there is surely no rush either unless South holds six diamonds. By contrast, if partner holds the ♠A - likely as South has never supported spades - you may need to play a spade. So lead the ♠9.

Deal 2

2.

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

South	West	North	East
1 Spade	Pass--	2 Diamond	2 Heart
2 Spade	Pass	4 Spade	All Pass

You lead the ♥4. Partner wins with the ♥K and returns the ♥9 to your ♥Q. What do you lead next?

Your partner must be able to see a good reason to have you on lead. Why else go to the trouble of underleading the ♥A?

You might wonder whether partner is void in diamonds. This is unlikely in any event, all the more so given that South failed to raise. Partner cannot want a club switch. It would have been easy to lead up to dummy's weak clubs. A trump switch must be the idea. While dummy may have no ruffing value, its trumps are vital entries to the diamond suit. If you fail to play a trump, declarer can cash the ♦A-K, ruff a diamond and use two trump entries to set up and enjoy a long diamond.