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

By JULIAN POTTAGE

3.

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

♠ 10
♥ K Q 8 7
♦ A J 5
♣ A Q J 5 4

4.

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

♠ A K 10 8 3
♥ 10 2
♦ J 9 7 5 3
♣ 9

West	North	East	South
			1♣
1♦	Dbf!	1♠	4♥

All Pass
Take-out with 4-4 in majors

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♥	1♠
2♥	3♣	3♥	Pass
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣

All Pass

You lead the ♦K: ♦6, ♦4 (standard attitude) and ♦5. How do you continue?

Since the ♦4 is the lowest card partner could have played, you read it as discouraging. It looks as if declarer started with A-J-x and is playing for a Bath Coup. You want the next diamond lead to come from someone else. On some layouts, a passive switch to a trump would suffice. However, if declarer has a good club suit, a trump switch will not work. Your opponent will be able to draw trumps and set up the clubs, eventually discarding a diamond on a good club. You need to switch to a spade - the jack is usual - hoping that partner can get in and revert to diamonds. This way, you will have a second diamond winner to make when you get in with the ♣K.

You lead the ♥4. Partner takes the ♥K and ♥A before switching to the ♦2. Winning the ♦9 with the ♦10, how do you continue?

With no red cards in dummy, you cannot cash the setting trick at trick four. One option is to continue with the ♦A. If partner holds the ♠10, declarer will be stuck in dummy, unable to overtake the second round of trumps. A better bet is to switch to a club. This kills the long clubs if declarer has a singleton, as your fourcard trump holding stops declarer from drawing trumps ending in dummy.

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