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DEFENSE QUIZ – July 2014 – original - [Here](#)

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By Julian Pottage

Dealer :North Vul :	NORTH ♠ KJ92 ♥ K64 ♦ AQ1054 ♣ 5	
WEST ♠ 54 ♥ 1083 ♦ J98 ♣ KJ1073	Deal 1	EAST ♠ 106 ♥ AJ72 ♦ 763 ♣ A984
	SOUTH ♠ AQ873 ♥ Q95 ♦ K2 ♣ Q62	

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

Partner leads the ♣J and you win with the ♣A. What do you return?

Do you play to beat the contract or do you try to stop declarer from making overtricks?

If partner holds the ♠A and the ♥Q, a trump switch is best. Partner can win and switch to a heart. Of course, that layout is unlikely: declarer will often hold more than 11 points; partner might hold the wasted ♠K or ♥K. At matchpoints, you should cash the ♥A at trick two, ensuring a second defensive trick. Declarer cannot then make 12 tricks via five spades, five diamonds and two club ruffs.

Dealer :South Vul :	NORTH ♠ QJ92 ♥ QJ96 ♦ A105 ♣ K10	
WEST ♠ 754 ♥ A83 ♦ 864 ♣ Q972	Deal 2	EAST ♠ 86 ♥ 1072 ♦ KJ73 ♣ A854
	SOUTH ♠ AK103 ♥ K54 ♦ Q92 ♣ J63	

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 Club	Pass
2 Spade	Pass	4 Spade	All Pass

Partner leads the ♣2; you take the ♣10 with the ♣A. What do you return?

You face a similar choice. Do you attack with a diamond switch, trying to beat the contract, or do you defend passively?

For the diamond switch to work, partner needs the ♥Q and no more than two cards with it. Moreover, as the ♣Q with declarer would provide a discard for one of dummy's diamonds, partner needs the ♠Q too. While this is possible, the odds are against it. Often, South will hold more than 12 points or hold a minor-suit queen.

The busy diamond switch is more likely to give away an overtrick than to defeat the contract.

Exit with the ♠6.